

390 THE
FUGITIVE.

Containing,

Several very pleasant *PAS-
SAGES*, and surprizing *AD-
VENTURES*, observ'd by
a *LADY* in her Country
Ramble; being both Useful
and Diverting for Persons of all
Ranks.

Now first published from her
own Manuscript.

L O N D O N:

Printed for G. Sawbridge, at the Three
Flower-de-luces in Little Britain, and
Sold by J. Nutt, near Stationers Hall,
Price bound 1s. 6d. 1705.

M

D

Ma

Y

one,
mos
son,
Adm
that

TO

M^{rs.} *Esther Johnson*

IN

D U B L I N.

Madam,

YOU will please to pardon this Address from one, who, though she is almost a Stranger to your Person, yet has been always an Admirer of those Perfections that make you the Envy of

The Dedication.

usall; such a Declaration cannot Offend when it comes from one of your own Sex, nor can it justly be Censur'd for Flattery, or the common Custom of a Dedicator, because if I had only such mean Designs as are usual with those who chuse Patrons for their Books, I should not have search'd for one at such a distance, nor have left the Circle of my own Acquaintance, for one to whom I am, perhaps, altogether unknown. But the sense of so much Worth, to some part whereof I am a Witness, and the rest have had from undoubted Fame, (which in this bad World is rarely false when it speaks

The Dedication.

speaks to the Advantage of a
Lady, has forced me to single
you out from the rest of our
Sex, and draw some weak
Lines of your Character, to
stir up others to imitate it.
And I cannot tell why a De-
scription of a compleat ver-
tuous Person may not help to
create Imitation, as well as
a Picture, if we could but
reach the Colours, and the
Life, as well as some Painters
do. When I had once the
happiness here, to be where
you was, tho' among a mixt
Company, I observ'd in you
all the Decencies of Behavi-
our and Conversation that I
could ever conceive in my
Mind, much Knowledge, true
Judg-

The Dedication.

Judgment, lively inoffensive Wit, Modesty without constraint, and perfect Good Humour, and all without the least Inclination to Censure: However, I am told you have still made wonderful Improvements even in the Kingdom where you now are, and which by holding a part of your Fortune, would, like a presuming Lover, pretend a Title to your Person.

When I first design'd myself this Honour, I had not heard of your remove (being then retired into the Country) and I hoped, however, it would have found you return'd, and sure, Madam, you will not stay long where you
are,

The Dedication.

are, if you consider what you owe to your own Country and Friends; for how much soever we may abound here in accomplish'd Persons of our Sex, you are a Blessing we cannot easily want. In this short Sketch I have drawn of your Perfections, I make no mention of the Charms of your Person, for how large a subject soever they may be of Men's Praises, the Prescription of them will be of no use to the Publick, Art and Imitation add but a false Lustre to the Beauty of the Body, tho' the Mind receives great Improvement from both.

After

The Dedication.

After dwelling upon so agreeable a Subject, how can I have Assurance to descend to so low a one as that of the Trifle I am now laying at your Feet. Perhaps you will be a little Diverted with a plain Relation of the variety of Accidents and Passages which usually happen to those whose Stars have ordain'd them to wander, especially when you are told, that they are not barely probable only, but almost exactly true, to the greatest part whereof I am a witness, and have had the rest from the Parties themselves who were concern'd. I had a Mind to make an Experiment, whether it was not possible

The Dedication.

possible to divert the Town
with real Events, just as they
happen'd, without running
into Romance; and if I shall
succeed therein, and gain
your Pardon and Protection,
I shall obtain all the Ends I
design'd by it.

I am,

Madam,

*Your most Humble, and
most Obedient Servant, &c.*

THE

T H E
P R E F A C E

WHEN Fortune (the
Common Gilt, who is fond
dest of those of her own
Character) had toss'd me out of one
Hand into the other, for the space of
Eighteen or Twenty Tears, and had
all that time made me her sport, she
at last grew weary of her Diversion,
and gave me one hearty Cuff to get
rid of me, which brought me once
more into England; and tho' she did
not follow me her self, yet she sent
after me to let me know her Will
and Pleasure, which was, that I must
never expect to live a quiet or set-
tled

The PREFACE.

led Life, but must with Cain (tho' for different reasons) turn wanderer: When I found what was determined against me, I was resolved to bear it with resolution, and disappoint that disturber of my Peace, by letting her see that she had no longer a Power to make me uneasy, and to this end I reversed my own Humour, and from a lumpish melancholly drone, I became of a sudden chearful and pleasant, and as I had been Fortune's Jest for the time past, so did I resolve to make her, and the World, mine for the time to come; and as it was decree'd against me, I Rambled till I met with a Subject for this small Volume. How the World will accept it I know not, because it wants three or four of the Modern Graces and Embellishments, such as Prophaneness, Baudy, Faction, and a general contempt of Religion; but if the Reader can pass by those faults, he will, I hope, meet with something that may please.

The PREFACE.

I will not say that every Circumstance of the Book is true to a tittle, but the Ground and Foundation of almost every Story is matter of Fact, and what I have not taken upon Credit from any Body, but have been a witness to the greatest part of my self. If the Reader finds any thing in it that can divert him, I shall undoubtedly be the better satisfy'd with my pains ; if not, I have already told him, I am resolv'd to be easy.

THE

T
Inv
pro
the
pet
har
Tra
bee
nor
yet
of
up
Not

(.)

The Fugitive:

O R,

The Country Ramble.

AS Ignorance is the Mother of Devotion, and Necessity of Invention, so may Travelling be properly enough call'd the Mother of Observation; and tho' the petty Journies I have taken, will hardly entitle me to the name of a Traveller, because I have never been at *France* for new Fashions, nor at *Rome* for Religion or a Song, yet I hope *England* is not so barren of diversion, but one may pick up some things in it, worthy of Note.

B

When

When I was in the sixth year of my Age I began my Ramble, being about that time carried by my Mother into *Ireland*, a place very much despis'd by those that know it not, and valued by them that do. I mean such as have gone there without prejudice, and have given their opinions without partiality ; but I know some Peoples Aversion to it so great, that three Lines more in its defence, would give them a disrelish of the whole Book.

I shall therefore confine myself to *England*, and only tell the Reader, that after having spent some years in our Neighbouring Nation, I, at last, at the request of some Friends, return'd to *England* again; and the first thing I met with, which I thought worth my Remembrance, was the Curiosity and Credulity, or to speak more properly, the simplicity of one of my own Country-men ; who, tho' I thought I had left all the Fools

be.

behind me, was yet pleas'd to demonstrate himself a little inclining that way.

After we had gone some Miles cross the Country, we came towards night to our Inn, where we had not been long, before the Maid of the House came grining in, and told us there was a Man without, who had heard that some of the wild *Irish* were here, and having never seen any of them, offer'd the Maid a Shilling, if she would help him to the fight; the Wench, who happen'd to have a little more Wit than he, came in with the Jest, to see how far we would encourage it; for my part I was mightily pleas'd at the fancy, and bid the Maid by all means earn the Shilling, and bring him in. Now, said I, does this Fellow think that we have Horns and Hoofs, and imagines Humanity alters as often as his own dull fancy; but I shall be so far from striving to change

his opinion, that I am resolved to do all I can to confirm him in it. By this time he came staring in with Eyes, Ears and Mouth open, big with expectation of seeing something very extraordinary. Come Friend, said I, you have a mind I hear, to see some of the wild *Irish*. *Tes, forsooth*, said he, *an yo pleasen, but, pray ye, where are thay*; why, said I, I am one of them; *noa, noa*, said he, *forsooth, yo looken laik one of us, but those Foke that I mean are Foke we long Tails, that have no Cloaths on, but are cover'd laik my brown Caw a whome, with their own Hair*. Come, said I, sit you down, and I'll tell you all; as you say, when I was three years old, I was just such a Creature as you speak of, and one day I went a little farther than I should have done, and was taken in a Net with some other Vermin, which the *English* had spread on purpose for us, and when

wh
my
and
of
yo
cou
no
tic
Fe
m
ta
K
in
h
y
a
v
a
J

when they had me, they cut off my Tail, and scalded off my Hair; and ever since I have been like one of you. *Well, forsooth,* said he, *yo tellen me Wonders, but praye could yo Speak.* *Speak,* said I, *no, I could make a Gapeing in articulate Noife, as the rest of my Fellow Beasts did, and went upon my Hands as well as Feet, in imitation of them; but for any other Knowledge, I had it not till I got into English Hands.* *Well,* said he, *yo may bless the day that ever yo met with that same Net b'r Lady. I have often heard of the waild Irish, but I never saw any of them before; but, pray ye, forsooth,* said he, *will you be pleas'd to tell me one Word over again; and then I'll go whome, that in particular you talked of, when yo mead a Noife.* *Oh,* said I, *that Word will be of no use to you, you had as good be without it; but if you have a mind to make*

B 3

your

your Neighbours merry, get away
 as fast as you can, and give them
 a full account of what you have
 heard. Thus this poor Soul went
 away full of Wonder, to spread
 the Lye all over the Country, and
 left us as full of Mirth, as he was
 of Folly. We spent the rest of the
 Evening very pleasantly, and the
 next Morning I took Horse again,
 and set forward to a Friend's House,
 where I had often been Invited.
 In three days I arriv'd, and found
 my Friend from home ; however,
 I met his Wife, who made as plain
 a figure for one of her Station, as
 I had ever seen, and it was not
 long before she gave me good rea-
 son to believe her Manners were
 of a piece with her Dress ; the cor-
 ners of her Mouth lookt, as if the
 last thing she had Eaten had been
 a Spoonful of Treacle, or that she
 had lately had the Tooth-ach, and
 had been applying Pilgrims Salve
 for a Remedy ; but, I afterwards
 found

found it to be no more than the effects of Tobacco-smoke, which always found a vent at the afore-said corners, and, indeed, had I no other Sense than that of Smelling, it would have been sufficient for my Information, and I might easily have guest at the exercise which she best Loved. Her Looks and Dress were very odd and japan, and I began of all things to admire my Friend's fancy. Whether I was welcome or no, I knew not; but she took the greatest care by her Words and Actions, to keep me from believing I was, she brought me however in the House, which I took as a particular favour, for by this time I began to suspect the Truth, which was, that she was one that loved to Live alone to save Charges, tho' she had no Child, and very well knew I had the best title to a hearty welcome. After I had sat some time I was very dry, and desir'd some Beer,

which when brought, was just one remove from Water.

• This, thought I, does she keep for an Antidote against the ill effects of Travelling in a dark Night, it will certainly keep Folks in the right way; however, things will mend, I hope, and she will put on her best Looks by and by. She often took an occasion to leave me alone, upon which I put a very favourable Construction, and did not at all doubt, but that all the Errands she made out, would at last turn to my advantage, and the product of her Pains would have been a good Supper; beside, the multiplicity of Poultry which I saw about the Yard, added to my expectation, and I waited with a very keen Appetite for the approach of a Smoaking Pullet; at last, according to my wish, the Cloath was laid, which might have serv'd for a Supper itself, had all been fairly out, that was foully in; and had I been less sharp

sharp set, perhaps the sight of it might have done the business of what follow'd; but as the Case stood with me, I was resolv'd that nothing should turn my Stomach, and I did not wish half so often for a clean Cloath, as I did for something to make that worse, tho' it was almost impossible; the Side-Board, however, was set out with Plate and Glasses to a nicety, which piece of Civility I placed to the Man's account, who seem'd to wait with a deal of Diligence; at last in came the Lady, and in the rear of her the following Dishes, in the placing of which I shall observe Order, because both the quantity and quality deserves it; first, came in the stately remains of a half boyl'd Leg of Beef, next with a Grace, enter'd two ribs of a Breast of Mutton, with the Neck and Head of a cold Rabbit, and to compleat the Feast, we had in its turn a Plate of hard Boyl'd Eggs,

attended by a Modicum of Whey Butter. The Bread too, very well deserves my Observation, and I would willingly describe it, but I want a Simile; so, that unless the Reader has the Idea of a turf in fancy, I must own I can think of nothing else that is at all a-pro-po. This Supper, together with the order of it, did me more good, than if I had had a good one to fill my Belly with; but tho' it gave me some days diversion afterwards, yet, for the present, I had a double uneasiness; first, for the disappointment I had met with in having no Supper, and next to see myself used with so much contempt by one, that had a great many good reasons to have done other-ways. Madam, said I, you have, I suppose, had a Feast lately, and I am happily come to take share of the Scraps, pray, will you do me the favour to help me to some of the Brains, for if I had not stood in
the

the greatest need of them, I should never have made a journey hither to make a Supper of them. To this she made no Answer, but with a Smile, as if she had been pleas'd with her performance, she presented me, after her way, with the Head of the Rabbit; for her part she fell too, with the hasty Appetite of a half-starved Plow-man, and like a greedy Jack-Daw, she devour'd almost all that was brought. When I saw her make such a nimble dispatch of the Food, I began of all things to admire her management, for making such suitable Provision, and I was heartily pleas'd at the opportunity that had presented it self, for the improvement of my good Housewifery. I soon found her out to be one of those that Boyl their Turnips without Paring, and Eat them without Butter; and therefore was resolv'd to make myself very easie for a few Days, both with
her

her Company and Entertainment ; and in order to it, I put on a very pleasant look, and she, when her own Belly was full, and that she saw I could be content with having mine empty, she began to be as good Condition'd as one would wish, and when the things were taken away, she call'd for her Pipe, betwixt every whiff she entertained me with a ridiculous impertinent Story of her own Life ; in which there was not the least fault, but every circumstance was managed with the greatest Prudence, Wit, and good Humour imaginable ; for my part I was as Faithless as an Infidel to all she said, and was almost Surfeited with the fulsome Praises she gave herself, and could not forbear making her this Answer. Madam, said I, you have done me a singular favour, in making me acquainted with your worth ; but in those parts of the World where I have spent my time,

time, most People, whose Lives are attended with so many advantages, leave the recital of them for other Folks. Madam, said she, those People you speak of, are attended with no advantages at all; so that both themselves, and and other People, are forced to be silent. This Answer I found she made, in the bitterness of her Soul, and instead of making her any return I burst out a Laughing, at which she grew Pale with Anger, but said no more upon that subject. When she had tir'd herself, (for she had no great regard to me) she propos'd going to Bed, which was the only favour she had oblig'd me with, tho' had I been as well acquainted with my Bed, as I was with my Supper, I should have had as little Stomach to one, as I had to the other; but without more Ceremony she conducted me into her own Chamber, which made a very tolerable appearance,
and

and I hoped for a pair of clean Sheets, and no Bed-fellow ; tho' it was decreed, that my expectations should in every thing be frustrated, for instead of what I wish'd for, I was laid in Linnen of at least a Months standing, with the Lady herself, on one side of me, and a Neice she had on the other, to keep me from falling out of Bed ; I cannot say, when I wak'd in the Morning, because I had not been asleep all Night ; but as soon as I could see to dress me, I left my brace of Bed-Fellows to inore by themselves, and went to walk in the Gardens, which were very fine, and where I had much the pleasanter Comfort ; the Trees were dress'd in all their Gaiety, and the little Birds were in the height of all their Mirth, the Beautiful Flowers gave the greatest content to the Eye and Smell, and the little Fishes in the Ponds, peept out to see the Rising Sun.

This

This
very
men
One
not
inc
Ga
wh
as
du
lu
a
f
f

This place, I own, delighted me
 very much, and made me some a-
 mends for my Nights Lodging.
 One thing which I took particular
 notice of, which I cannot forbear
 incerting, when I had view'd the
 Gardenround, I turn'd into a walk,
 where I saw some Bee-hives, and
 as I stood admiring that little in-
 dustrious Animal, I saw a whole
 lump of them come out together,
 and being a little curious, I in-
 spected into their business, and
 found they had gotten a dead
 Companion upon their Backs,
 which they carried and buried un-
 der a Leaf; this I thought a sight
 very well worth my Observation,
 and I could have cast in a Tear, me
 thought, at the Solemnity of the
 Funeral. After I had spent an
 hour, in admiring the variety of
 Objects, which this pleasant spot
 of Ground afforded, I turn'd me
 towards the House, and saw the
 fordid coverous Owner of all this,
 whole

whose narrow Soul deserved not the least corner of so much glory: She came up to me, and asked me, if I would go and see the management of her Dairy, I told her I did not doubt, but that all I saw in her House, would be very much for my advantage, and therefore I was both ready and willing to go; when we came in the Cows were just milked, and now, said she, I'll tell you how I order it. First, I make a Cheese, then I set the Whey for Cream to make Butter, then I make them set on the Whey for Curds for their own Dinners, and the rest goes to fatten the Hogs. Well, said I, if this Meals Milk be not stretch'd upon the Tenter hooks of good House-wifery, I never saw any thing that was; but, said I, can this Whey you speak of, be of any use to the Swine, after you have made Butter, Cheese and Curds out of it, I can't conceive it to be any better than

than
if it
make
sing
had
fired
ry
than
dan
larg
fro
an
w
y
th
C

than Water. Oh, yes, said she, if it be rightly manag'd it will make them fat, I am not for losing any thing. By this time I had enough of her Dairy, and desired to go in, where I found a very good Fire, somewhat larger than the Season required. Madam, said I, I mind your Fires are larger than can well be expected from one of your frugal Temper, and though I don't suppose you want a hint upon such occasions, yet I will tell you one Story, and then I will rid you of a troublesome Guest.

I had once an acquaintance, who was for the improvement of his Time and Talent, sent to the University, where his Allowance was not great, and Firing extravagantly dear, he began to set his Wits to work for a Remedy, and at last thought of this Stratagem, which he hoped might be of a double use to him; first, to find him Exercise,
and

and next to save his Money, and in order to his Tryal of Skill, he provides himself of a large Block, the which he laid in his Chimney, and when he was Cold, he put just as much Fire under, as he thought would not kindle it, and then blow'd till it was quite out, by which time he was as warm, as if he had plaid the ill Husband, and burnt that Block, which was design'd to serve all the Winter. Now, I think, said I, this Man managed his Fire, as well as you do your Milk, and if you were not provided for already, you should have my Consent to go together, since you are both good at saving Inventions, with only this difference, that what you do is choice, and what he did was necessity. Whether she made a right use of this Doctrine or no, I know not, for I staid not long there, we hapening to be upon pretty even terms, she weary of me, and I tired

tired
chan
ques
ter
man
and
cou
don
and
the
me
m
th
fl
F
Y

tired with her, I was resolv'd to change my Quarters, and go in quest of better Company, and better Entertainment. I had a great many Relations in the Kingdom, and I consider'd that none of them could use me worse than this had done, and my Design was to go and try. The next Morning therefore I was early up, and got me ready to be gone ; when, to my very great Surprize, I found the Lady grown generous, and she forced me to stay to Dinner. However, as soon as I had dinn'd, I pack'd up my Auls, and away I went, to a Friend's House not far of, who was a Relation too.

Thus I left this Lady to her Frugality, and towards Night I came to the place intended, which was a Gentleman's House, tho' the Owner thereof had but a small Estate. I saw a great light in most of the Rooms, and when

I came in, I found a great deal of good Company, and met with a hearty Welcome from the top of the Family. I found every body was set upon the merry Pin, and tho' the last place I was in, had given me a larger share of the Spleen than was agreeable either to my self, or other People, yet I was resolved that nothing should hinder me from being as pleasant as the rest; every body did what they could to divert each other, and all sorts of innocent Freedom was taken without Exception; for my part I thought I could not divert my Company more than by giving them a true Relation, of what had so lately fallen within the Verge of my own Observation, and tho' I conceal'd her Name, because I was not willing to expose her Husband, yet I very frankly told them how nobly I had been entertain'd for the last two Days, by a Person of very considera-

considerable Circumstances. When I had done, a Gentleman in the Company, who had listen'd with a great deal of Attention to what I had said, told me with a very serious Face, he hoped, I did not suppose my self the only Person there, that had met with short Commons; for, said he, I was not long since in *London*, where by chance, I met an old Acquaintance, who after I had made her three or four Visits invited me to Dinner, where the chief of my Fare was to be (what I mightily liked) Pork and Potatoes. The next Day I went and found the Cloath laid in good order, and in good time our Dinner came, I look'd in the Dish, and saw whole Mountains of Potatoes, but a Man might have put all the Pork into a good hollow Tooth; pray, Madam, said I, how many Ounces may this weigh, Ounces, said she, in a great deal of dudgeon; pray, done

don't tell me of Ounces, I'm sure there was two Pound on't at first, and this is but the second Boiling.

Thus did we divert our selves, till we were summon'd to Supper, where we met with Plenty enough to make us both amends for the Pennance we had done, and, indeed, it was not without some morral Reflections, that I beheld the superfluity of Provision which was made for us.

The next Day the number of our Dishes were doubled, and nothing but Mirth and Plenty fill'd the House; for my part I found such an alteration for the better, that I thought my self removed into another World. The Gentleman of the House had one Daughter, who was a very pretty sort of a Woman. Not so much for Beauty, as for Wit and good humour; in the Afternoon, she and I took a Walk into the Fields, and

and I being a Stranger to all the Company, I asked her an Account of them, and whether it were customary to her Father to have so much Company. She told me, no, but that this was a thing a little extraordinary; pray, said I, who is that cooing Couple, that is always billing. It seems, methinks, to be Honey-Moon with them, they are so wonderfully fond. Why, said she, if you can have patience with my dull way of talking, I will tell you a very comical Story of this Couple. His Name is *Hughs*, and when he was about three Years old, his Mother's Father died, and left him Heir to three hundred pounds a Year, beside several other considerable Legacies, and his own Father was left his Guardian; when he was about nineteen Years of Age, he went to keep *Christmas* with a Relation that lived about thirty or forty Miles from

from him, who had a Daughter
 not quite fifteen, very handsome
 but no great expectation of a Fortune ; with this young Creature
 he falls most desperately in Love
 and against the World would marry
 her, her Parents you may believe,
 did not stand out much, because
 they knew both his Circumstances
 and their own, and therefore
 gave the greatest encouragement
 to his Design; this came to
 his Father's Ear, who was very
 much alarm'd, having no great
 Matters of his own to trust too
 and consequently was not willing
 to part with what he had in his
 possession of his Sons, he therefore
 sends Post for him home, and
 orders the Messenger, upon pain
 of his displeasure, not to stir with
 out him: This Message, when
 receiv'd by our young Lover
 gave him a qualm, but he durst
 not disobey the Summons, so that
 with much unwillingness, he is
 forc'd

aughted forced home again to his Father,
 andson who was not a little pleased that
 of a For he had, once more gotten his lost
 Creatur Sheep into his possession, tho' he
 in Love took wrong measures with him,
 ould man when he had him, for that rea-
 may be son kep't him not long.

uch, be He us'd him with the greatest
 his Cir rigor, lockt him up, took his Al-
 yn, and lowance from him, kept him from
 t encour all Company, and almost starv'd
 his cam him to boot, this Usage fix'd him
 was ver in his Resolution, and he swore to
 o great himself, the first moment of Li-
 ust too berty he became Master of, should
 t willing carry him to the place from whence
 in his he came, there to continue his
 e there own Master for ever, and he soon
 me, an after found a way to make his
 pon pain Escape; for one Day when his Fa-
 stir with ther was gone a Hunting he got
 when re off the Lock of his Door, went
 Lover into the Stable, and took a Horse,
 he dur and away he went directly to this
 e, so tha young Girl, and married her that
 e, he Night, and one would have
 force C thought,

thought, that she had been very well dispos'd off, falling into the Hands of one, whose Estate afforded a prospect of plenty ; one, who Married her purely for Love, she young and handsom enough to keep that Love ; and yet all this was not sufficient to make her happy, because she had made Choice of a Coxcomb. He stay'd not with her above three Weeks, before he let the World see that it was in the power his Father's Emissaries to make him hate, loath and detest her, the which he did, to insinuate himself into his Father's favour again, nay, so far did the Devil perswade him, as to make him take his Oath in open Court that he was never married to her at all, which, when he had done, his Father sent him out of the Kingdom, and he was away five whole Years, during which time, she proves her Marriage, and goes to Law for a se-
seperate

perate Maintenance; but the Father having a better Purse than she, and the Son being gone, they could not make any thing of it, only she clear'd her self from being his Whore: Thus she liv'd for four Years, without the value of one Shilling from any of them; at last she heard where her Husband was, and was advised by all means to go to him, and most People were of Opinion, that now he was free from his Father, he might be perswaded to hear Reason, and take her again; to this she consents, and her Father, tho' he was ill able to spare it, got up Fifty Pounds for her, and sent her, and a Servant, to the ungracious Run-away.

But as she was going, she began to consider, that she was grown extreamly fat, and red fac'd, so that it would be next to impossible for him to know her, and he, perhaps, might still dislike her

the more, for being so disadvantageously alter'd; she therefore resolves to pass upon him for some body else, believing, as she had good cause, that after he had Forsworn marrying her, he would not much dispute the marrying another. He had a Man with him, who always show'd the greatest dislike to his Master's Proceedings, (as all well-meaning People did) this Man she intends to make privy to her Design; and when she came where he was, she sent for him to the Inn, and told him she came from some of his Relations in *England*, but did not discover herself till she saw that he knew her not, and then she told him, who she was: The poor Man was very much over-joy'd to see her, but with all told her, he could not give her much encouragement to hope for a kind Reception from his Master. No, said she, I have no great cause to hope for Kindness,

ness, from one who has so long us'd me ill; but if you will become my Accomplice, perhaps, we may bring him to some good unknown to himself: My Design is not to discover who I really am, but to pass for some body who I really am not, and if you will but bring it about, you shall find I can be very grateful. The Man promised his best Endeavours, and went immediately to his Master, and told him that there was a very fine Woman just come to Town, and they say she is a very great Fortune; for my part, said he, I do advise you to marry by all means; and since you are quite clear of the other, who may, for ought you know, be in the Arms of some Body else: What should hinder you from making your self as happy as you can? Your Father, no doubt, makes himself merry upon what is yours, and I think you may as well enjoy it your

self. A little Perswasion serv'd to
 bring him to a compliance, and
 after she had taken a Lodging, ac-
 cording to the Man's Advice, he
 came to see her, and lik'd her ve-
 ry well (for she is really a handsom
 Woman still) tho' the chief Mo-
 tive that induc'd him, was her For-
 tune, which he resolv'd to be sa-
 tisfied in, before he made his Ad-
 dresses. He therefore sets on his
 Man to find out whence she
 came, that he might send him for
 Information. This fell out, ac-
 cording to their Wish, and the
 Mistress and the Man laid their
 Design so effectually, that the la-
 ter, after a pretended Journey of
 a Days Riding, came back with
 a full Account of the Lady's For-
 tune, which was very considera-
 ble, and the News of it stir'd up
 the poor Man to venture his Neck,
 and marry again. He goes at
 Night, and lays all his Love at
 the Lady's Feet, makes her an
 Offer

Offer
 shor
 gree
 Cou
 fore
 and
 a Y
 her
 her
 pre
 he
 dur
 for
 kep
 and
 ses
 she
 ble
 a
 an
 ge
 kn
 fo
 th
 hi
 la

Offer of a good Joynture, and, in short, where they were both agreed, there needed no long Courtship. A few days therefore made an end of the Matter, and he settled a hundred Pounds a Year upon her, and married her once more. She still kept her own Counsel, and began to press him to go to *England*, where he said his Estate was, but he durst not venture to come hither for fear of his other Wife, but still kept her in expectation of going, and put her off with blind Excuses from Day to Day, till at last she grew weary of the disagreeable place she was in, which was a little dirty Town in *Scotland*, and bethought her of a Stratagem to make him move. She knew full well, what made him so unwilling to go back, and therefore the next Day she writes him a Letter from his Wife in *England* (as he thought) and lets him

know that she is resolved to come to him, and since he will allow her nothing, she will come and be (at least) a plague to him, and he should see that as no body had a better Right to share his Fortune, so no body should express a just Resentment in bitterer Terms than she would do. This Letter his Man brings him from a Fellow he met in the Street, enquiring for him, which strikes such a damp upon his Spirits, that his Wife takes notice of his Disorder, and enquires after the cause of what she knew as well as he; but after a great many Haws and Hums, he at last tells her that his Father is not well, and that since she desired so much to go to *England*, he would, in a very few days, go with her, which she seem'd to be (and, in reality, was) wonderfully pleased with.

However, he still hung an *Ass*,
and durst not go for fear his *Eng-
lish*

lish
Wor
it w
had
as f
Dev
bec
him
in l
To
rel
der
bre
to
hav
Po
fer
thi
co
br
Au
wa
no
of
w

liſh Wife ſhould not keep her Word, and come. One Night when it was almoſt dark, his Man (who had his Cue) came in, and look'd as frighted, as if he had met the Devil and Doctor *Fauſtus*, and becken'd his Maſter out, and told him; if ever he ſaw his firſt Wife in his Life, he ſaw her ride into Town juſt now. This made him reſolve in good earneſt, and he orders all things to be ready by break of Day, which put a ſtop to another Journey, he was to have made to receive his Wife's Portion. In the mean time ſhe ſends her Father Word, how all things went, and deſires him to come and meet them, and to bring a Writ, and a Bailiff to Arreſt him, and carry him away Priſoner to his own Houſe.

When Bed-time came, he was not willing to go to Bed, for fear of over-ſleeping himſelf, tho' he well knew he ſhould not ſleep at all,

all, little dreaming that the cause of his Fears was in his Arms, or that he was about to run from one that he willingly took along with him.

Before it was day he was up, making such nimble Preparations, as gave her the greatest Diversion, while she lay and look'd at him, thinking how much Vice, as well as Vertue, was its own Reward; she saw every Faculty of his Soul and Body attended with a general Disorder, and his Eyes and Tongue spoke nothing but Confusion; at last she got up to put him out of his pain, and made her ready, and away they went, when they came within fifty Miles of her Father's House, they saw four Men coming towards them, whom she knew to be her Father, and his Company. She took no notice of them, but, he grew pale and trembled so much, that he could hardly sit on his Horse,
when

when they came up close to them the Bailiff Arrested him, and they carried him away to a place which he would not have seen, had he had a power to prevent it. She seem'd so surpriz'd, that he thought she would have swooned, and tho' by this time he began to wish he had never seen her, yet he bid her have a good Heart, and he would send for his own Father in the Morning to be his Bail. The next Day they came to their Journeys end, and he sent his Man to his Father, to let him know all his Misfortunes, who came to him, and heard him tell the melancholy Story of his second Wedding. The Father, who knew his Daughter-in-Law had proved her Marriage, began now to comfort himself for the loss of his Son with the hopes of his Estate, for he did not suppose his Life to be worth a Groats worth of Eggs.

Howe

However, he desired to see his second Bargain, upon which the Son takes his Wife by the Hand, and brings her to his Father, which put the old Man into such a Rage, that he could hardly forbear beating him : *You impudent Rogue (saic he) do you banter me ? Do'y think to make me your Sport, you Fogg ? Do ye bring me a Wife of five Tears standing for a Bride ? Did ye send for me to save you from hanging ; and then laugh at me ? But I'll hamper ye, Sirrab ; I'll make ye spend your Estate to get possession on't.* And away he went with those words between his Teeth, in so great a fury, that nothing but his Son's surprize could equal it ; he look'd at one, and star'd at another, and found every body full of Laughter, tho' he himself wanted the Jest, and when the Mystery was unfolded, he wanted Faith to believe it. At last, when he saw her Father and her Mother own her, and all the

rest

rest of the Family vouch her the same: *He came to her (and told her) she had delivered him out of so much- trouble, fear and Confusion, that nothing but the greatest Love could be a return suitable.* And from that time he grew so fond of her, that he has deservedly, the Name of the most uxorious Husband in this part of the Country; for my part, I love to see 'em together, tho' some that envy them say, such a deal of Love before Folks, is a certain sign of none when they are alone; but there is no general Rule without an Exception, and I do really believe them a very happy Couple, tho' he is still a little whimsical, but she has found out the true Receipt for his Cure. Poor Lady, said I, she well deserves his Love, that took so much pains for it, and when ever he ceases to love her, may he meet with that Fate, which will be more justly his Due,

Due, for such a fault, then if he had really had two Wives. But pray, said I, what have they done with the old Father, have they undeceiv'd him yet. Yes, said she, and he made his Son go to Law for his Estate, tho' his Title was so good, that it was soon concluded; and he has settled all upon her Son, which is all the Children they have. I swear, said I, I am mightily pleased with them, come let us go in, that I may view them again; how long do you think they will stay? Oh, said she, not much longer, they never stay above a Night when they come here, and they don't live above ten Miles off, so that I suppose they will go by and by. When we came in, we found them just ready to take Horse, and it did me good at my Heart, to see with what care he set her up. When they were gone, and two or three more, our Company was

reduc'd

reduc'd to a very small number,
 yet was our Provision the same;
 and no Gentleman of five hundred
 Pounds a Year could keep a better
 Table, either for Meat or Drink.
 No body came there, tho' upon
 the most siveleſs Errant, without a
 Bellyfull; the worſt Servant in the
 Houſe had a power to make all
 welcome that came to them. The
 Cellar Door ſtood always open,
 with Ale and Small Beer in com-
 mon, the latter of which, I dare
 ſay, laſted longeſt. The Lady of
 the Houſe was one of thoſe, that
 thought nothing made a Servant a
 Thieffooner than locking from him;
 ſo that to hinder her Servants from
 being Thieves, ſhe laid the grea-
 teſt Temptations in their way to
 make them ſo. This Hoſpitality,
 or rather Extravancy and ill Ma-
 nagement, I knew could not hold
 out long, I was very ſenſible my
 Friends Eſtate would not afford it;
 and tho' I was too much a Stran-
 ger

ger to advise; yet, I could not forbear sometimes putting in an Ore, and it vext me to my Heart to see People of Sense live without Consideration. The last place I had been at, I was tormented with ill tim'd Frugality, and here I was press'd and loaded with too much Plenty, and I grew as sick of one, as I was weary of the other. I had a Bill for some Money upon a Farmer not far off, and I took my Leave where I was, and went to receive it, but as I was going the Spirit of Poetry appear'd to me, and whisper'd the following Lines in my Ear.

**I can't forgive those Hidebound Men who lay
Their Riches up to eat themselves away :
Nor do they less deserve Contempt, whose use
Of Worldly Blessings, is to be profuse.
Too much of both Extreams I have often met,
But ner'e could find out happy Medium yet.**

After

After two Hours Riding, I came to the Farmer's House, from whom I was to receive the Money, who was one of the best humour'd Men I had seen : but had he had the Patience of *Job*, he had a Wife that knew how to find him Exercise for it all. She was the most Perverse, Bawling, Scolding, Revengeful, Ill-natur'd Brute in the Universe, and led the poor Man such a Life, that a place in the Gallies would have been Paradise to his own House.

Just as I alighted, he had by some neglect lost a Lamb, for which she did rate him with so much ill Language, that I often wondred he did not knock her Brains out ; and I knew not which to impute his Patience to, his Good Humour, or his Cowardise ; bless me, thought I, an thou wert mine, I would send thee for a venture to the Great Mogul. I saw the poor Man under so much

Cor.

Correction, that I thought my Message would be but an indifferent Cordial to him; however, I had no other pretence for being there, and for that reason was forced to give him my Bill, which I desired him to answer as soon as he could, that I might be gone again. Truly Madam, said he, I do not wonder you are in haste; but I must beg of you to have a days Patience, for at present I have not so much Money in the House, though this Bill is not payable these Fifteen days, yet if you will stay till to morrow, I will not give you the trouble of coming again. I stood sometime before I could resolve, the dreadful apprehensions I had of a repetition of her shrill Pipes ungrateful Noise, made me very unwilling to stay, and yet I had no great mind for another Journey neither; at last I considered she had not talked her Husband to Death, who had so much

of her
might
therefo
Woma
ill-natr
Gentle
good
use of
Calm,
pray'd
would
Mone
he w
Man,
himse
were
old m
taken
herse
by co
her
what
proce
Wom
per,
n ev
of

of her, and I began to hope there
 might be no great danger of me, and
 therefore ventur'd to stay. This
 Woman, tho' she was as Fiery and
 ill-natur'd as a Fury, yet was a
 Gentlewoman, and Mistress of more
 good Sense, than she made good
 use of. At last she grew a little
 Calm, and begg'd my Pardon, and
 pray'd me to be easy, and she
 would go out and fetch me my
 Money, which she did; as soon as
 she was gone, I ask'd the poor
 Man, who had not well recover'd
 himself, whether those noisy Fits
 were Customary with his Wife; he
 told me, yes, of late Days, she had
 taken up a Trade of making both
 herself and him uneasy, which was,
 by continual use, become part of
 her Nature; but pray, said I,
 what can be the meaning of such
 proceedings, is it possible that any
 Woman can be of so curst a Tem-
 per, to run counter to a Husband
 in every thing, without some
 grand

grand provocation for it ; sure you have disoblig'd her to the last degree in something or other, else she could never play the Devil's part, and her own, as she does.

No, said he, if I were conscious to my self, that I had ever behaved my self towards her with the least indifference, I should bear my severe Affliction with more Patience, but you shall hear how much I have provoked her, and then leave you to judge who is most in fault.

About a year since she happen'd to have an inconsiderable quarrel with a Neighbour hard by, who after a great deal of ill Language given on her side, at last told her it was not possible that she could be any thing better than a Limb of Satan; and he was sure she had served an Apprenticeship at *Bil-lingsgate*, for she was always either Scolding or Drinking Brandy. This made her so Mad, that tho' she

he very well deserv'd what fell to
 her share, yet she came home and
 cry'd all day, and said she should
 never rest till she had a full Re-
 venge of this Man, who had not
 the least suspicion of her wicked
 Intentions. He had a Field of ve-
 ry fine Corn, which was almost
 ready for the Sickle, and to such
 a height was her Malice grown,
 that nothing would satisfie her, ex-
 cept I would go in the Night, and
 set this Corn on Fire. I was ve-
 ry much concern'd, as well as sur-
 priz'd, to hear her propose a thing
 very inconsistent with all Laws,
 both of good Nature and good
 Morals, and therefore did all I
 could to dissuade her, with a thou-
 sand Arguments from so malicious
 Thought, and told her I could
 soon consent to the lopping off
 a Limb, as resolve to be guilty
 of an Act so base. However, her
 implacable Temper, which had
 gotten the Mastery of her Reason,
 would

would hearken to nothing but her
 Revenge, and tho' I urg'd the ill
 consequences, which must of ne-
 cessity have follow'd such an Acti-
 on, with the greatest Aggravations,
 yet she still refus'd to hear Reason
 and persisted in her violent desires
 of burning the Man's Corn; which
 I as obstinately refus'd to do, and
 when she found it out of her Pow-
 er to bring me to her Will, she has
 ever since turn'd all her Spleen
 against me, and my denial has
 rais'd a Devil in her, which no-
 thing but the Power of a God can
 lay. Truly, said I, your conditi-
 on calls for the greatest Pity, and
 I wish my Abilities were as good
 as my Will is, towards the redre-
 sing your Grievances; but pray
 said I, how long have you lived
 Country Life, for by your Dis-
 course I should guess you to have
 been bred, where People are Ma-
 sters of more refin'd Language
 than is generally to be found in the

Coun

 Coun
 your
 said
 Year
 good
 Merc
 and
 solve
 Coun
 alway
 woul
 patch
 gain.
 By
 and
 hey
 for m
 force
 Lodg
 good
 Even
 from
 who
 mour
 ordin
 of m

Country, especially among Men of your Rank. You have guess'd right, said he, for I had in my younger Years the advantage of a very good Education, and was bred a Merchant, but being a little Wild, and having ill Luck, I at last resolved to betake my self to a Country Life, which was what I always liked, and what I hoped would, with good Husbandry, patch up my broken Fortune again.

By this time the Wife came back, and brought Night and the Money home with her; it was too late for me to stir, and therefore I was forced to content my self with a Lodging where I was, and by good Fortune had a very pleasant Evening; for soon after her, came from *London* a Relation of hers, who put her into a very good Humour, and was himself an extraordinary Companion, and master of much Sense; after he had sat a while,

while, he entertained us with two or three very odd accidents which befel him, during the time he had been at *London*, which afforded us a great deal of Diversion.

One night, said he, I was with some Company, which was not very agreeable to me, and therefore I disingaged my self an hour or two sooner than was usual with me, and set forward towards my Lodging, and as I was jogging on by the *Temple*, I saw a Creature of the Feminine Gender, going a very slow Pace before me, as if she had a Mind to be over-taken, and tho' my Inclination lay not much towards her, yet the halt that she made when I came up with her, made me make a full stop, and offer my Service to wait of her home, which she very readily accepted of, and took me as lovingly under the Arm, as if she and I had been old Acquaintance. I thought I could do no less, then ask her to Drink

a Glass

two a Glass of Wine, tho' I began to
 which hope she would not accept of my
 had Kindness; but I found her very
 d us willing to comply, and I was re-
 solved to go with her, on purpose
 with to see her Face, the first Tavern
 very we came to ; I march'd in with
 ore I my Lady in my hand, and did not
 two at all doubt, but that Fortune had
 me, prepared me a Bed-fellow for that
 odg- Night ; but as soon as I came to
 y the the Light, I found I was mistaken,
 of the and instead of a young Girl to keep
 very me warm, I had pickt up a big Bel-
 e had tied Woman, who, for ought I knew,
 d tho' might have Father'd the Kid upon
 h to me ; this I own made me look ve-
 t she y Sheepish, and I would have
 a her, been at any reasonable Charges,
 nd of to have gotten fairly rid of her,
 home, which she took notice of, and said,
 ed of, Sir, you look like a Gentleman,
 er the and I am a poor Woman, and have
 en old great way Home, and am very
 could I, I therefore beg of you to give
 Drink me a little help. Why, faith, good
 Glas

D

Woman,

Woman, said I, I am but a very indifferent Midwife, but if you can be content with as much help as half a Crown for a Coach will give you, here it is, and God be w'ye with all my Heart. Thus I got rid of the first Woman that ever I attempted in the Street, and my luck was so indifferent then, that I almost forswore that sort of Cattle for ever, at least I promised my self to be very careful of all great Bellies, which were not of my own making, and I made and held a Resolution of seeing before I presented my Service to any of the Sex again. Here he stopped and gave us time for, and opportunity of shewing our white Teeth, and then went on with his second Adventure. About a Month or six Weeks after my first disappointment, said he, I went to see a Play where I was very well diverted and had the happiness to sit by a Lady in the Pit, who seem'd to

take

take
thin
Dre
I saw
the l
I fou
reall
wou
bette
rang
to h
Play
begin
make
ward
unwi
and
had
Ay,
I'll b
Elbow
multi
from
gag'd
then
and be

take the greatest delight in every
 thing I said to her ; she was well
 Drels'd, and well Shap'd, by which
 I saw there was no great danger of
 the last misfortune I had met with ;
 I found her very coming, and did
 really believe her handsome, and
 would have given her something
 better than a few Apples and O-
 ranges, which I presented her with,
 to have seen her Face ; at last the
 Play was over, tho' mine was but
 beginning, and as soon as she could
 make herself room, she press'd for-
 ward to be gone, tho' she seem'd
 unwilling to leave me behind her,
 and often turn'd to see whether I
 had Wit enough to take the hint.
 Ay, thought I, you need not fear,
 I'll be with you as soon as I have
 Elbow room, and nothing but
 multitude should have kept me
 from you so long ; at last I disin-
 gag'd myself from the Croud, and
 then I presented her with mine,
 and begg'd the favour of her Hand,

which she gave me with a shineſe, which only ſerv'd to let me ſee how willing ſhe was; I ask'd where ſhe was moſt willing to bleſs me with her Company, ſhe told me (tho' could hardly hear her for a great Cold ſhe had gotten) that ſhe had a mind to go to my Lodging; with all my Heart, ſaid I, and three doors farther compleats your Journey: When I had brought her up, the firſt favour I begg'd of her was to pull off her Mask, that I might ſee that Face which belonged to ſo fine a Shape. No, Sir, ſaid ſhe, I fancy your opinion of my Face is at preſent very good, and it would be Madneſs to forfeit it, by making a diſcovery. Oh, Madam, ſaid I, you rob me of all the Pleaſure of your Company if you conceal your Face, and I hope you did not come here with a deſign to deny me any thing. No, Sir, ſaid ſhe, you will find very ready to comply with all your wiſhes; but

but I
not p
you f
you,
to be
told h
nion o
Wom
could
I, no
own
greate
think
ſight
will,
that
fear,
did r
begg'
ſhe a
and ſh
Moth
ed at t
ſhe ha
ſhe w
for m

but I can assure you my Face will not please you ; however, to let you see how willing I am to oblige you, if you will promise me not to be frighted, I will unmask. I told her she had a very mean opinion of my Courage, to think a Woman's Face, tho' never so bad, could shock it ; but, Madam, said I, no doubt you only decry your own Face, that I may find the greater rarity in it, when you think fit to bless me with the sight ; however, be it how it will, you may depend upon it, that I shall behold it without fear, though I promis'd what I did not perform, for after I had begg'd, and vow'd, and swore, she at last pluckt off her Mask, and show'd me the Face of my own Mother. I was strangely confounded at the sight, not once suspecting she had been in Town, and I knew she would be very severe upon me for my fault, if I should stay to

give her the Hearing, I therefore thought it my best way to get as far from her as I could ; and taking up my Hat, I flung my self down Stairs, with a resolution to appear no more there, till I was sure she was gone ; in two days after I heard she went home again, and I have not seen her since. This gave us a second Fit of Laughing, tho' we shorten'd it as soon as we could, and prepar'd to give attention to what follow'd. About three days before I left *London*, said our diverting Companion, I went with three or four of my Acquaintance to the Tavern to pay my Foy, where I spent the night till towards twelve, and then we parted, they to their Lodgings; and I to mine ; but as I was upon the march home, I saw a small Company of the Mobility gotten together, and in the midst of 'em a good handsom young Woman, with her Cloaths almost pulled off from her Back, and all over

over
Torm
what
Cruel
my q
I coul
me ar
I t
good
to be
Lung
they
Perfec
heed
my
bare,
Quix
and
stres
way
Crow
der
noise
Hanc
carri
hom

over dirt. I ask'd some of her Tormentors who she was, and what she had done, to deserve such Cruel Usage from them, tho' all my questions were in vain, because I could perswade no Body to make me any answer to them.

I saw the Woman had a very good Face, and I had a great mind to be her Champion. I baul'd my Lungs fore to 'em to desist, tho' they were so intent upon their Persecution, that they gave no heed to any thing I said; at last my Patience was worn Threadbare, and I was so mad, that *Don Quixote* like, I drew my Sword, and went to the relief of the distressed Damself; when I had made way for myself, and scatter'd the Crowd, who dispersed like a Thunder Cloud with a great deal of noise, I took the Lady by the Hand, and most Triumphantly carried her off; I went directly home with my Prize, and hoped

she would make me some amends
 for my former disappointments,
 being sure that I had neither a
 great Belly nor a Mother to deal
 with ; and I gave her a great ma-
 ny Marks of my Charity, by or-
 dering a good Fire to dry her
 Cloaths, which were all Wet, and
 sending as late as it was for a
 Supper, and Wine to fill her Belly;
 and when she had eaten and drank
 plentifully, so far did my extraor-
 dinary Kindness go, that I made
 her an offer of part of my Bed, tho'
 it was but some times that I loved
 a Bed-fellow ; she looked a little
 confounded at the Proposal, and
 told me no Body could be more
 thankful for a favour, than she was
 to me for mine ; but withal told
 me, that how ill soever it might
 look for her to be in the hands of
 the Mob at that time of night, yet
 she was one that had made the
 strictest resolution against deser-
 ving that odious name of Whore,
 and

and I
 for y
 lieve
 this
 must
 hazar
 thing
 than
 shoul
 you
 fake,
 it is
 at le
 and
 mean
 no h
 her
 I w
 a d
 ry f
 ther
 me
 find
 of
 I
 wo
 tol

and I hope, said she, you will both for your own sake, and mine, believe me honest. Madam, said I, this will not pass upon me, you must not think to put me to so much hazard, trouble and expence for nothing, nor will I be put off with your sham Modesty, and I expect you should explain your last words, when you said you hoped for my own sake, I would believe you Honest; it is for my interest and satisfaction at least, that you should not be so, and therefore cannot guess at your meaning. When she saw there was no hopes of escaping, she told me her reason was, because, whenever I was convinced, it would make a discovery of what she would very fain keep a secret. No, said I, there must be no secret kept from me of any kind, and that you shall find before we part.

When she saw that nothing would work her deliverance, she told me, that she hoped as I lookt
D 5 like

like a Gentleman, and had hitherto acted like one, so she hoped I would still stick to that Character, and give her a Pardon for the Deceit she had used; but that her misfortunes were so great, that tho' a Man, he was forced to make his escape away in Womans Cloaths, and have recourse to a Petticoat for his safety; and if, said he, you keep me much longer, I shall be pursued and taken, and then I must rot in a Goal. I was so mad at this third baulk, that I could have kickt the Fellow down Stairs, and nothing vexed me so much, as to think that I should be such a Sot, and leave it in Fortune's Power to laugh at me three times upon one occasion.

I keep ye, said I, no, be gone and be hang'd, and choak ye heartily with your Supper. The poor Fellow was glad in his Heart to get from me, for I must own I did look very fowre upon him, and

and had a much better Stomach to beat him, than to go to Bed to him, for all the invitation I had given him not long before; and now, Madam, said he to me, tell me of such another unlucky Hero if you can. No, said I, sure.

No Body's luck is worse than yours,
To be so oft deceiv'd in Whores.

But sure, said I, all those disappointments have tired you, and I can't think you would bestow the taking up of one of them, if it should Rain fair Maids and Feather Beds. Yes, hang it, said he, if there were such plenty, I should venture once again; but sure nothing but a Miracle will ever make me secure of a Woman, till the Parson has said Grace. and I have her in Bed. By this time Supper was ready, which was a good piece of boyl'd Beef and Cabbage, and a sturdy bag Pudding, with lumps
of

of Fat in it, as big as the end of my Thumb. I confess, I wondred that we had no better Provision, because both the Man and his Wife knew better things, and because she had a Relation of her own with her, but 'twas before intended for themselves and Family, and so she e'ne made it serve us to. When we were all set, the *London Spark* called for the Pudding Bag, and said his Stomach would not serve him till he saw it; the Maid, who thought him a little crased, brought it to him, and when he had examined it inside and out, he fell to, and fed very plentifully; I was a little curious to know what he peept in the Pudding-Bag for, and when I had a little time, that is, when my Belly was almost full: Sir, said I, your looking in the Pudding-Bag runs very much in my Head, and I can't forbear asking you what you expected to find there. Why, faith,

faith, Madam, said he, I guess
 from our Food, that our Stomachs
 are none of the nicest, and there-
 fore I'll venture to tell you. I
 was some time ago in the Country,
 at a particular Friend's House,
 where the greatest part of our di-
 version was Hunting, and one day
 we met with a confounded tough
 Hare, which lead us all a smoak-
 ing Dance after her, and kept us
 all in play till Noon; at last I lost
 both the Hare and my Company
 in a Wood, my time of Dining
 was come, and my Guts cry'd
 out hang Diversion, give me some
 Victuals; and the truth on't is, I
 found them very quarrelsome, and
 durst not disoblige'em, whereupon
 I turned my Horses Head, and went
 to seek for new Game. I had not
 rid above half a Mile, before I e-
 spied a House, to which I went di-
 rectly, and after a knock or two
 at the Door, the good Wife of the
 Family came out; pray, Mistress,
 said

said I, have you gotten any food to give a poor Wanderer, either for Love or Money, for I am almost starved. Why, 'yes sure, said she, that I have, and if you please to light, you may stuff your Guts with good Beef and Pudding, till they will hold no more. I was transported to hear of such Provision, and got from my Horse with a world of Agility, and a design to give the Pudding no quarter; I waited not above two Minutes, before the lovely sight appear'd, and did lay about me to some tune; when I had eaten till the hoops were ready to burst, I pull'd out some Money to pay for my Meal, but my good kind hearted Landlady would not accept of my Gratitude, but told me I was heartily Welcome to what I had gotten, and so we parted. About a spit and a stride from the House, I met a good big Boy, with an abominable Scald Head, so very loath-

bathso
describ
nasty
put fo
Head
the B
Moth
a Puc
Moth
behin
ing
came
very
belie
disch
now
I al
the l
upo
T
to
and
wa
my
thi
th

food bathsom, that it is not possible to
 either describe it. Sirrah, said I, you
 m al- nasty Son of a——why don't you
 fure, put something upon that odious
 you Head of yours ; indeed, Sir, said
 stuff the Boy, I have a Cap, but my
 and Mother took it off to day, to boil
 I no a Pudding in : Where lives your
 hear Mother, said I, at that House just
 from behind you, said the Boy, point-
 lity, ing to the place from whence I
 ding came, with such a load of that
 ove very Pudding. Tho' you may
 vely believe it was not long before I
 out discharg'd my Conscience on't, and
 ea. now you have the true Cause why
 r to I always take the demerits of
 to the Pudding-Bag, before I venture
 ind upon the stuffing.

This set us all to Work, some
 to Laughing, and some to——
 and every Body to praying back-
 wards for the poor Woman. For
 my part, I lik'd the Company of
 this pleasant Gentleman so well,
 that I began to be sorry I was ob-
 liged

liged to go away in the Morning, but that was no abiding place for me, since Business brought me there, and Business carried me back again. But when I was in Bed, I heard the Noise of that infectious Tongue again, which lay still no longer than while it was contriving (with the help of a very pregnant Brain) new Broils. This second Alarm gave me the greatest Content to think my time was so short; and in the Morning early I was up, with a design to leave her a Legacy before I went, which I did in a piece of Paper, to this Effect,

The great Creator, who at first made Man,
Design'd for him a long and happy Life :
And he who could his Inclinations scan,
Added the double Blessing of a Wife.

Adam grew proud, and pleas'd with his rich Prize ;
And thank'd his Bounty, who the Pretent brought :
He look'd for all his Pleasures in her Eyes,
And on her Bosom, for Content he sought.

Why then should fretful, peevish, Woman Kind,
To whom such Power by God at first was given,
Disturb a Peaceful Husband's quiet Mind,
By robbing him of what, should be his Earthly

[Heaven.

But

But surely thou dost all thy Sex out-do :

In Bauling, Brauling, Scolding, Noise and Strife ;
And art as well thy own, as Husband's Foe,
By being such a Devil, of a Wife.

These Lines, when I had written them, I left them on the Table in the Room where I lay, and where I knew she would find them, and then I took my Leave of her ; and glad I was when I found my self out of her Hearing.

I went from hence to another Friend's House, whose Wife I had formerly known, and one that had met with a general remove as well as I, with her I intended to spend a Week, and then take a Lodging, and live without Rambling. But when I came there, I found the whole Family in Confusion. The Gentleman was grown melancholly, and his Wife was almost mad about it. The Children look'd as if they were all scar'd out of their Wits, and the Servants run about like so many
mes

ny hair'd Things, that knew neither the beginning nor the end of their Business.

Bless me, said I, (after I had sat a while) what can be the meaning of this new Face in your Family, to me the House looks like a little Bedlam, and all the People in it like so many different minded Mad-Folks, for my part I begin to fear Infection, and wish I were safe from among you again. No, said the poor afflicted Soul; I hope you are safe from the dreadful Causes of our Misfortunes, but when you are once acquainted with this House, you will no longer wonder at our Disorder. Pray, then said I, will you give a little Information, for I am impatient to know the reason of such a general Calamity. Ay, said she, you are my Friend, and therefore I will tell you all. The beginning of our Trouble was my Husband's Distemper, which has seiz-

ed

and him so violently, that he will
 not see the best Friend he has; nor
 will he suffer me to come near
 him; but lives mew'd up in his
 Chamber, indulging his own
 growing Folly, which alone is
 his constant Companion. But
 said I, how does he live? Where
 has he Food? We set him Vic-
 tuals, said she, at his Door, and
 when we are gone, he comes out,
 and takes it. Sure, said I, it is
 the oddest way of Living that e-
 ver I heard of, is there no way
 to cure him of such a pernicious
 Fit of the Hip. No, said she, I
 fear not, for he will not endure a
 Physician to come a - near him,
 and I am almost at my Wits end,
 with one thing or other. Prithy,
 said I, what other Affliction have
 you. Why, said she, the House
 has been haunted ever since my
 Husband's illness, and we have
 such dreadful Noises at his Cham-
 ber Door, that we are all ready;
 sometimes

sometimes to run away. Piss
 said I, this is all Fancy, and I'm
 afraid your spleenatick Husband
 has infected the whole Family.
 No, said she, it is more then Fan-
 cy, and I doubt not but this night
 will convince you of your mistake.
 I hope, said I, I shall meet with
 an Opportunity of convincing you
 of yours, for tho' I am not one
 of those that pretend to argue a-
 gainst supernatural Beings, be-
 cause we have both Scripture, and
 other good Authority to confirm
 us in a belief, that there are such,
 and nothing but a Tincture of A-
 theism can be of force enough to
 beat any Body out of that belief,
 yet I believe, nothing but some
 very extraordinary occasion makes
 them visible, and there are fifty
 Fancies for one Reality upon such
 occasions. However, the thoughts
 of those Apparitions, and Hob-
 goblins, which she had told me of,
 had done her a kindness, for ever
 since

Since the dreadful Noises she had
 heard, she had taken up a very good
 custom of going to Prayers with
 her Family every Night, tho' I
 think there was not much of it in
 the Morning, because then they
 heard no Noise. When we had
 sup'd, we were call'd toge-
 ther to pray for a deliverance
 from the evil Spirit, and in the
 midst of our Devotion we heard a
 strange Rumbling, several times
 repeated. For my part I must
 own my Fault was so great, that
 I could hardly forbear Laughing,
 to see the Countenances of all a-
 bout me chang'd to a Death Com-
 plexion, and the good Lady her-
 self going on with trembling Lips.
 At last it came down Stairs with
 such a clutter as made us all
 about, some ran into one hole,
 and some into another, and no
 body had any Courage left to
 face this formidable Rattler but
 myself. I was resolv'd to find
 out

out, if possible, the reason of it and when I found my self forsaken by all the Company. I took up a Candle, and went to see what Form or Shape it had. Sometime before, the Maid had set a Jug of Furmity at her Master's Door, which he had not taken in, and poor Puss, who was often his Taster, had thrust in his Head for a Lick or two, and could not get it out again, at last with striving for her release, and wasting the use of her Eyes, she and the Jug fell down Stairs together and frightened all the rest of the Family to such a degree, that I began to fear they would hardly ever make their Personal appearance again. This set me into such a violent Fit of Laughing that it, and the noise together brought poor *Hypocondriack* out of his Chamber, and he came down to see what the Matter was when the rest of the poor Mortals

heard

heard me so merry, they bolted
 out of their Holes one by one, to
 see what I laugh'd at, and there
 they found Mr. *Gravity* (who was
 half cur'd of his Distemper with
 his comical sight) and I making
 our Remarks upon the strength of
 Fancy, that had possess'd the whole
 House with Whims of, they knew
 not what. I hope, said I, you
 can be grateful enough to reward
 me for the Service I have done
 you, in laying your Devil for
 you, and I dare almost be Secu-
 rity for Puss, that she will hardly
 ever undertake such a dangerous
 Enterprize again. I soon found
 there was no great need of taking
 much pains to perswade the rest to
 be of my Opinion, for every Bo-
 dy laugh'd at their own Folly,
 when they saw the Cat and her
 sholler the cause of their fear.
 When I had stay'd about a Week
 or ten Days, I began to think of
 removing; but my Friend was so
 pleas'd

pleas'd with the Service I had done
 her, that she would not hear of
 my going, but kept me with her
 three or four Months, during
 which time I became acquainted
 with a young Lady that lodg'd not
 far from me, and she being a Wo-
 man of much Sense, and more good
 Humour, I contracted a firm and
 lasting Friendship with her, which
 made us very fond of one another,
 and I can't say that any Stranger
 ever gain'd so absolute a Conquest
 over my good Wishes in so short
 a time before. This Lady had to
 the rest of her agreeable Qualities,
 a very good Face, and those Ad-
 vantages were not given her for
 nought, for besides a great many
 petty Lovers, her Charms had
 made a Slave of a Gentleman, no
 less remarkable for natural En-
 dowments than she was, and in
 one Thing he had much the better
 of her, for he had a very good Es-
 tate; and her Fortune depended
 upon

upon the Curtisie of able, but un-
 willing Relations. To this Gentle-
 man's Love and Proposals she
 seem'd very indifferent, and would
 by no means hearken to what e-
 very Body thought would be for
 her good. The Familiarity that
 was betwixt her and I, made me
 one Day a little more inquisitive
 than ordinary, and having her whol-
 ly to my self, I ask'd her whether
 that Gentleman whom I often saw
 with her did really make honoura-
 ble Love to her, or no. She said,
 yes, he did; but that she was re-
 solv'd never to marry any Man
 while she liv'd. Why then, said I,
 do you let him visit you; I think
 you ought in Honour either to en-
 courage, or discard him, and not
 keep him between hope and fear,
 when you have positively deter-
 min'd against him. No, said she,
 do not keep him, nor did I ever
 give him the least hopes; but on
 the contrary, have often desir'd
 E him

him to come no more where I was, tho' it was all in vain, and he still haunts me where ever I go; if I lock my self into my Chamber from Morning till Night, he'll sit at the Door, and starve me out, so that I still want the Art to get rid of him, and my best Endeavours have hitherto prov'd ineffectual. Without doubt, said I, you are a Woman of too much Sense, to want a very good Reason for what you do, but I must own it puzzles me very much to find out why you reject him; he seems to me, a Man, in all Respects, deserving your Love, and you alone can give a Cause why he is despis'd. Why then, said she, to let you see that I am your Friend, and that I do really believe you to be mine, I will, as such, intrust you with the only Secret of my Life, and then follow your Directions afterwards.

When

When I was very young, my Parents died, and left me too much to my own management; and in a little time after, a Gentleman, for whom I had more favour than he deserved, made his application to me for my Love, and I being Young and Foolish, and wholly my own Mistress, gave him daily assurances of it; when he found himself secure of me, he fixt upon a day for our Wedding, to which I likewise agreed, and had I stopt there, and given my consent no farther, I might still have been happy; but the night before he staid till it was very late, and upon strength of being the next day my Husband, he importun'd me for what he too easily gain'd, and I never saw the base Deceiver since. This is the reason why I am resolved against Marriage, nor have I the least dislike to this Gentleman, but I know my own Guilt, and can't be so ungrateful to his

Love, as to reward it with an Im-
 posture. Your Generosity, said I,
 is as great as the rest of those Per-
 fections I value you for, and tho'
 it would be a fault in me to pre-
 tend to advise one, whose Wit and
 Discretion have a superiority over
 mine; yet I will tell you with the
 sincerity of a Friend, how I would
 behave myself upon such an un-
 happy occasion. This Man, no
 doubt on't, loves you to a great
 degree, or he would never have
 submitted to all the slights you
 have loaded him with; I would
 therefore tell him the whole truth,
 and when he knows the worst of
 you, he will either Marry you
 notwithstanding, or he will imme-
 diately leave you. I confess, it is
 a story that well deserves the grea-
 test Resolution and Courage to tell,
 but I do really think it is the shor-
 rest way to your happiness, and
 therefore would have you pursue
 it. Oh, said she, how ungreat-
 ful

ful
 to
 lies
 in
 like
 affu
 thin
 he is
 othe
 too
 Tho
 shall
 and
 surel
 Secre
 be as
 ly per
 came
 her to
 I was
 wards
 which
 ted in
 was s
 him to
 putting

ful a task is it to Flesh and Blood;
 to found a Trumpet of its own Fol-
 lies and Miscarriages, especially
 in the Ears of one we wish may
 like us ; and how great must my
 assurance be, to tell a Man that
 thinks me Virtuous, how much
 he is deceiv'd, and how much I am
 otherwise ; but I hope he loves me
 too well to expose me, and that
 Thought added to your advice,
 shall conquer my rising Aversion,
 and the next time I see him, I will
 surely make him a Partner in the
 Secret. Do, said I, and may you
 be as truly Happy, as you are tru-
 ly penitent. About an hour after he
 came in, and then I got up and left
 her to her Father Confessor. When
 I was gone, as she told me after-
 wards, he began to renew his Suit,
 which she received with her won-
 ted indifference, and told him she
 was sorry she could not perswade
 him to take her Word, without
 putting her to the expence of so

many ungreatful Denials ; and, said she, I am concern'd that you should lose that time upon me, which might be improved to great advantages in another place. Madam, said he, advantage is not my business, and therefore that is no inducement to leave you ; but, since I find you are resolved to persist in your Coldness toward me, I desire you will be so just to me, as to let me know why you despise me ; where there is so great an Aversion, there must be an equivalent fault, or else you must be guilty of a great deal of Folly and Injustice, but that is not consistent with the rest of your Character, and therefore I will rather suppose the fault in my self than you. No, Sir, said she, the fault is wholly mine, and because I have reason to believe you Love me, I will trust you with the Secret. In short, if you Marry me, you take a Woman who has met with the great-

great
test o
she h
to d
Trut
this i
so lon
offers
you
will r
I hop
open
what
to un
nerosi
return
can v
more
ly ; a
Wom
own d
a Ma
have
specti
just ca
fore,

greatest misfortunes from the greatest of Villains, in an Age when she had neither Wit nor Courage to defend herself; this is the Truth, and this is my Case, and this is the true Reason why I have so long rejected the advantageous offers you have made me, and now you know the worst of me, you will no doubt give up your Suit; I hope you will not lay my faults open to the World, nor expose for what is no longer in my power to undo. No, said he, your generosity deserves a more grateful return, and you shall see, that I can value your present Vertues, more than I despise your past Folly; and will always believe that Woman, that can be so great to own her fault, rather than deceive a Man before Marriage, will behave herself with so much circumspection after it, as to give him no just cause of complaint. Therefore, said he, since you have re-

E 4

moved

moved your own objection, • prepare this day, to be my Wife to morrow, for no longer will I stay. As soon as he was gone, she sent for me, and told me what good success attended my Advice, and how near she was to Matrimony.

I was very glad of her fortunate proceedings, and the next day I saw them joyn'd to the great satisfaction of all that knew them; and from my own observation, when there, as well as enquiry afterwards, I had all the reason in the World to believe, that she made the best of Wives.

Some time after I went to look for a Limb of the Law, to bribe him for a little of his Advice, concerning a Legacy that was left me, but never paid; and while I was with him, an old Woman brim full of Nonsense came in, whose Face I thought I knew, and told him she was come for a little of his De-vice in form of Poverty; for, said she

she, my Husband is dead, and I
 have Reministred; but his Brother
 has clapt in a Pecavi (I think you
 call it) to my Reministration, and is
 going to convince a Suit against me,
 I shall lose all my Money, if you do
 not help me to it again by your
 Ingenious, for truly I am not in a
 Compasity to help my self; when
 she had made an end of her Speech
 to him, she turn'd about to me, and
 ask'd me how I did. It is true, said
 I, I have seen you some where, but
 at present I have forgotten where.
 This made her very angry; What,
 said she, you are so Proud, you
 will not know poor *Jone Ellis*, that
 us'd to weed your Unkle's Garden,
 I'm sure I remember your Phismy-
 gig very well. I cry thee mercy,
 with all my Heart, *Jone*, said I,
 I had almost forgotten thee; but,
 as thou say'st, I remember thy
 Physmygig too, now thou hast told
 me thy Name; prithy, what has
 brought thee to this end of the

Country. Why, forsooth, said she, half crying, my Husband brought me hither, and now he is Dead, and has left me in so much trouble, that I am forced to come to this Gentleman for help; alas, for thee, *Jone*, said I, I wish thee good luck, but I'm afraid, if thou hast brought no Money with thee, thou wilt not carry much Advice back; between you and I, a Lawyer does not much for a Fee, and it would very much surprize me to find them doing any thing without one. Oh, but forsooth, said she, they say he is a very good Man, and so very Compassionate to the Poor, that I hope he will take pity on my Infirmities, and help me to my Money again.

Well, said I, it will be a good Hearing, if all things do but answer your expectation, for going to Law without Money, is like going to Fight without Arms, and in my mind, full as little hopes of

Vi

Vict
but i
say,
cles,
speak
had d
again
found
lived
the n
ted,
Cour
his E
come
the S
ter a
in, I
about
been
had
I imp
them
man'
of w
to a
he p

Victory on one side as the other ;
 but if he be as good a Man as you
 say, he may for once work Mira-
 cles, and give the Poor cause to
 speak well of a Lawyer. When I
 had done my Business, I return'd
 again to my Friend's House, and
 found her Father just alighted, who
 lived a great way from her, but
 the noise of her House being haun-
 ted, had spread itself all over the
 Country, and at last had reached
 his Ear, and he, poor Man, was
 come with a design, either to lay
 the Spirit, or to take the Daugh-
 ter along with him. When I came
 in, I found them all very merry,
 about the Devil that had happily
 been discovered ; and because I
 had had enough of that Discourse,
 I improv'd their Mirth, by giving
 them a true account of the old Wo-
 man's Law Latin ; the rehearsal
 of which set the old Gentleman in-
 to a violent Fit of the Ptsick, and
 he protested he had not Laugh'd
 so

so much since the Restoration, tho' he had had the least reason in the World to make a jest of other People; for tho' he was a mighty Interpreter of hard Words, and spoke a great many of them, yet he never fail'd to give them a wrong Sense. One day he had set himself in the Chimney-corner, and had gotten a Mellon before him, to which he Invited me, and told me it had the most falacious Flavour in the World.

Falacious, I knew according to Custom, he had knockt out of joint, but I had a mighty mind to hear what he would make of the other. Sir, said I, you are not, I hope, made Master of so much Learning and Reason, to keep it all to your self, I therefore desire you will be pleas'd to inform my Ignorance a little, and tell me what a Flavour is. He who knew, *that none but Fools Bolts were soon shot*; After a deliberate Pause, and a manner

ture
wisel
that
said I
happ
to st
want
pleas
I shal
and r
the M
time,
nion
very
or, in
But
in his
partic
spigh
his Fr
retain
ther P
ver ha
out of
lar up
withou

ture

ture Consideration, at last most wisely and judiciously resolv'd me; that a Flavour was a Flavour. Sir, said I, I thank you, and if ever I happen (which is very unlikely) to stumble upon a Word, that wants an Explanation, if you please to apply your self to me, I shall most readily untie the Knot, and make you an equal Sharer in the Mystery. Tho', at the same time, I well knew, that his Opinion of his own Knowledge was very much above n.y Instructions, or, indeed, any Body's.

But as he was very Dogmatical in his Opinions, so was he very particular in his Dress too; and in spite of all Opposition made by his Friends to the contrary, he still retain'd the oldest Fashions; neither Perswasion nor Argument ever had force enough to beat him out of a short Double with a Collar up to his very Gullet, and without doubt he was perswaded, that

that straightening his Breeches would have drawn his Understanding into narrower Demensions, which made him always wear them open at the Knees, and wide enough to make any Woman that was no bigger than good, a Petticoat. He made it his chiefest care to divert us with a great many old Stories; and one Night having nothing else to do, but to hearken to his Impertinence, he entertain'd us with a wonderful deal of strange Adventures, and among the rest told us several huge over-grown Lies of Witches, which he had so often repeated for Truths, that at last he himself did believe them to be true, and it was well he did, for if he had not, the Jest would have been lost for want of Faith. When he had tyr'd himself, and every Body else sleepy, he went to Bed, and so did we, but about Midnight we were all alarm'd with a very great

noise
which
This
well
with
sensi
pose
brok
a M
sion
Whe
the
no fa
we a
Nose
but a
man'
most
griev
on me
told
so m
that
now,
them
nued

noise without side the House, which we all concluded to be Thieves; this rous'd the Men as well as Women, and the former with Weapons offensive and defensive went in great hast to oppose a Stone Horse, which was broken out of the Stable to go to a Mare, and that was all the occasion of our untimely Resurrection. When we found out the Truth of the Matter, and that there was no farther Business to be done, we all with one Consent turn'd our Noses towards our Beds again, but as we went by the old Gentleman's Door, we heard him in a most pittiful manner making a most grievous out-cry, and saying, *mercy on me, for I am certainly bewitch'd.* I told them he had talk'd of Witches so much before he went to Bed, that he was dreaming of them now, and would not have had them gone to him; but he continued to call for help, and a Candle,

dle, and said he could not set one Foot before the other ; at last we went in with a Light, and discovered the poor Man's Misfortune.

He had heard the Noise as well as we, and got out of Bed to help scare away the Thieves, and over-acting his part, in making too much hast, he had thrust both his Legs into one side of his wide Breeches, and being so frightened, first with the noise, and then finding himself not able to go, he never examin'd the Cause, but gave it for granted, that he was infatigably bewitch'd. I need not tell the Reader how merry this made us all ; since if he finds a Jest in it himself, he will easily guess, and if he does not, it will but make it so much the duller, to enlarge upon it.

The next Day my Friend was preparing to go abroad, and knowing my Inclinations lay not much towards home, when she

was

was f
go w
willin
that f
rather
was w
ny wh
then,
as. w
which
Hearin
Wh
small J
we set
went,
nity of
retainin
This
now g
come a
good h
perh
red Po
e goo
ble
ea
was

one was from it, ask'd me if I would
 we go with her. I told her I would
 co- willingly consent to any thing
 ne- that suited with her convenience,
 vell rather than be left alone, or which
 nelp was worse, be confin'd to Compa-
 ver- ny which I did not like. Why
 too then, said she, get y'e ready, and
 his as we go, I'll tell ye a Story,
 vide which may perhaps be worth your
 ted, Hearing.
 ind-

ne- When we were both ready for a
 gave small Journey of two little Miles,
 fati- we set out together, and as we
 the went, she gave me an Opportu-
 e us nity of imploying my Memory by
 in it retaining the following Account.

and This Lady, said she, whom I am
 make now going to vis-
 arge come a Wife; she
 was good honest

and perhaps,
 not red Pour

she was the goo
 was and ble

which are, by all, allow'd to be very
 ry great, and to this we may add
 a Face, which not one in a Hun-
 dred can better, beside an Air and
 Mein, very uncommon to Women
 of her Rank. So that by the
 sharpness of her Wit, an agree-
 ble way o Conversation, which
 she is perfectly Mistress of, she
 had wound her self into the favour
 of one of the best Families here
 abouts, insomuch, that the Lady
 of the House never thought she
 had Company, if she were absent
 nor never desired more, if she were
 present ; but the kind Reception
 which she daily met with from
 this good Lady, was not her only

for by a frequent
 House, she often
 with a Gentle
 ation to
 man of
 er with
 ade
 hey

to be very many repeated Offers of honour-
may add Love.

a Hunt. Some time pass'd, before she
Air and me to a Resolution, at least be-
Women are she would own it, but at last
by theer she found that his Pretenti-
agrees were real, and that his Incl-
whichions and Designs met with no
of, the position from his own Relations,
ne favour then she had consulted her Friends
ies here Interest, and found that both
he Ladere for promoting so advantage-
ought this a Match, she (after a few faint
e absentials) complies with all his
she wishes, and consents to be his
Receptife.

ith from All Things being thus conclu-
t her on, in a short time she resolves
frequent go to *London* to provide her self
the off such Things as were not fine,
a Gentle necessary, and because she was
on to a stranger both to the Town and
an of thions, she took a she-Relation
er with her, whose Intimacy with both
made her a very fit Companion.
they had somewhat more then a

Days

Days Journey to London, which oblig'd them to lye a Night upon the Road; and after they had been in Bed some time, this Lady heard very fine Musick in the House, and being a true Lover thereof, she got out of Bed, leaving her Cousin asleep, and ran to the end of a long Gallery without her Cloaths, to feast her Ears with what she was so very fond of; but before she had half her Belly full of sound (to speak improperly) the Cold drove her back to her Bed again, and she gave her Bedfellow a shove; saying, surely thou art the dullest Animal that ever was, to lye and sleep, and stop your Ears against the Charms of Musick. To this she got no Answer, but when she had thrust her self over Head and Ears in Bed, she found her Coz grown very kind of a sudden, and with a pleasant unusual hugg, bid her welcome. This gave her some cause

which to guess at the Truth of what she
 upon had done, and she soon found she
 had was in the wrong Box. For the
 Lady's rooms standing very thick, and
 she not used to such places, she
 mistook her own Chamber, and
 went to Bed to a Gentleman in the
 next: And I leave you to imagine
 the pittiful plight she was in,
 when she found her mistake; she
 immediately began to struggle for
 her Liberty, and with a great ma-
 ny good Words pleaded for it,
 but found her Detainer very re-
 fractory, and he told her with an
 affected Morosity, that he neither
 desired, nor expected her Compā-
 ny, yet since she was so kind to
 make him a voluntary Visit in his
 Bed, he would not leave it in her
 power to say he was so unbred, as
 to slight or despise the Favour:
 Therefore, Madam, said he, be
 easie, and contented with what
 you your self have done, and don't
 suppose that we are to part on any
 Terms

Terms but what I approve of Sir, said she, it is true, you have too much Reason for what you say, and my Folly is so great in leaving my own Chamber without a Light to conveigh me safe back again, that I hardly know how to make my own Excuse; however, tho' you may have some grounds to believe me an ill Woman, yet assure your self you shall never find me one. I must own I am not willing to expose my self to the People of the House, by making a Discovery of my foolish Proceedings (and if you are a Gentleman, you will not put me to the Extremity of it) yet know I will run all Hazards, rather than suffer my self to be abused, and whatever you may think of me now, I will by a fix'd Resolution against all your Attempts let you see, that my coming here was Chance, not Design : When he found her so very resolute, he be

an to consider that Rigour would
 ever bring her to his Bow, and
 therefore he chang'd the Scene, and
 try'd what fair means would do:
 He vow'd, he swore, he lied, he
 made her a thousand Promises, of
 which he never intended to keep
 one, tho' all proved ineffectual,
 and she bravely kept her own
 promise while she despised his.
 When he found all his Endeavours
 in vain, and that nothing could
 prevail with her to be as wicked as
 himself, but that all her Requests
 enter'd in her deliverance. He
 then begg'd her to stay a little
 longer, and told her if she would
 let him know who she was, and
 where she lived, he would without
 any farther Importunity dismiss
 her. She who was willing to pur-
 chase her Freedom at any Rate,
 which did not touch her Honour,
 made no difficulty to comply with
 his last Request, but gave him an
 exact and true Account of her self
 and

and Circumstances, nor did she make a Secret of the Design she had of being, in a short time, a Wife. Well, said he, if I give you the Freedom of going from me as you came to me, I hope you will own that my Generosity deserves some acknowledgements and that you may see I don't design to be unreasonable, I will only exact a Promise from you of coming to your Wedding, and having an Account of it three days before Consummation. This she promised faithfully to perform and told him her Esteem for him should always be equal to the greatness of Spirit, which he had shown, in being not hers, but his own Conqueror.

Well, but Madam, said he, find you are very much alarmed and the Thoughts of that ill usage which you might, and have expected from me, makes you profuse of your Promises, as People

ple on a Dying Bed, who after their deliverance never think of them more. You must therefore not take it ill if I desire some small Hostage, which may oblige you to a performance of yours, since nothing can be a greater Disappointment to me, then a Breach of them will be. Sir, said she, what can you expect from a Person almost naked, you know the whole Inventory of all the Cloaths I have about me amounts to no more than a Smock, and a Suit of Night-Cloaths, which if they could be spared, are too inconsiderable to be pawn'd for the performance of a Promise.

Ay, said he, but if I be not very much deceived, you have a Ring on your Finger, which I expect. If you expect it, said she, and exact it of me, you shall have it, but let me tell you when I have given that away, I have given it out of my own power to

F — supply

supply my self with those Necessaries, the want of which occasioned this Journey.

That, said he, shall be no pretence, for I will give you an Order to receive the full Value of it at London, if you will let me see you in the Morning ; or if you dare take Money in the dark, you shall have what you demand now. To this last Proposal she consented, and took thirty Guinea's for her Ring. But now, said he, that I have paid you for this Ring, perhaps you will say it is no longer a Tie upon you ; but as I have very great reason to believe you a virtuous Woman in some Respects, so will I believe you just in every thing, and don't deceive me ; for if you do, this Ring shall rise up against you, and do you more mischief than you may, at present think of. No. said she, *You may spare your Threats, for tho' I cannot boast of Noble Blood, yet I scorn*

bag

*base Action as much as they that can ;
and I'll keep my Word till I can no
longer keep my Breath. Well, then,
said he, Go, and be happy, and re-
member I part with more Reluctance
from you, than ever I did from the
Darling of my Soul ; a Bottle !*

She was too well pleased with
her License to wait for a second
Bidding, but without any farther
Ceremony she got up, and away
she went to the next Room, which
happen'd to be her own, and was
very thankful for her Deliverance
out of the Hands of one from
whom she had no cause to expect
the least Favour. In the Morn-
ing she, and her Cousin, (who
knew nothing of the last Night's
Transactions) got up, and pre-
par'd to finish their Journey ; when
they came out of their Chamber,
they saw a Gentleman very well
dress'd, with a Glass of Wine in
his Hand, presenting his Service
to an old Lady, that was just go-
ing

ing down Stairs, and told her he was a little frolicksome, and was resolved to drink with all the Women that went that way till Night; at last it came to her turn, and he took her by the Hand, and with Design discover'd the Ring, in hopes, that one Discovery might make another, as it really did; for when she saw her Ring upon his Finger, it brought her Guilt with her Blood into her Face, and she found her self once more seiz'd by her last Night's Bedfellow. And he whose whole Design was to find her out, had by her Blushes gain'd his End, and he no longer doubted but that she was his last Night's Visitor; he took her to a Side Table, as he had done all the rest, to drink a Glass of Wine, and told her, unheard by all but her self, that he had some cause from her Blushes to believe her the Lady which Fortune had so lately put into his Hands; and that his

Frolick

Frolick was now at an end, since
 by it he only intended to see her.
 And, Sir, said she, with Looks
 confus'd; by that Ring on your
 Finger, I believe you to be the
 Gentleman to whose Bed I heed-
 lessly ran last Night instead of my
 own; but I hope my Behaviour
 when there, convinced you, that
 nothing but Mistake brought me
 to it. Madam, said he, my Opi-
 nion of you, is as great (if possi-
 ble) as your own Virtues, and
 I shall never take the Liberty of
 thinking any thing to your disad-
 vantage; and because I will not
 expose you to the Censure of those
 that stand by, I will dismiss you,
 but first I must beg you to renew
 the Promise you made me last
 Night, and here is a Note of Di-
 rection, where to send to me. Sir,
 said she, if your Opinion of me,
 be as good as you would have me
 think it is, you will no longer
 think it possible for me to be guil-

ry of any Thing so mean as a
 Breach of Promise; therefore be
 assured, that I will keep my Word
 to a Tittle. When she had made
 him this Answer, she turn'd from
 him, and went to her Cousin,
 who waited with a great deal of
 Christian Patience for her return ;
 they went on to *London*, and fur-
 nished themselves with such things
 as they wanted, and then return'd
 to her Father's House again.
 Some ten Days after was appoin-
 ted to put an end to the Bride-
 groom's Wishes, and she began to
 think of sending Word to the Gen-
 tleman as she had often promis'd.
 On *Monday* she sent him Advice,
 that the *Thursday* following was
 to be the Day, and he, contrary to
 her expectation, instead of *Thurs-*
day came on *Tuesday* in a Coach
 and Six, with an Equipage an-
 swerable, and he himself dress'd
 like the Master of so much Gran-
 dure ; the poor old Father was
 frighted

frighted to see so gay a Thing enter his homely Cottage, and durst not so much as cast an Eye towards him. The young Woman, tho' she had much rather he had stay'd a Day or two longer, yet she treated him very civilly, and told him she hop'd, since he had mistaken the Day, he would be so kind as to wink at all those Faults which generally attend a Hurry. He told her he was very sorry his coming was unseasonable, but that nothing could make him uneasie, but seeing her so, and therefore begg'd her to believe, that he was highly pleas'd with his Entertainment, and, indeed, he had no other Reason, for she who is an extraordinary good House Wife, had without any noise or clutter, prepar'd a Supper, which might have been eaten in a much better House. The next Day the Lover appear'd, and Dined with his Mistress, and her new Guest. The number of

their Dishes was not so great as
 the Order and good Management
 of them; and the Contriver of the
 Feast, gain'd new Admiration
 from all that had the pleasure and
 advantage of her Company. When
 they had done with their Dinner,
 the Stranger asked the Bridegroom
 intended, whether he would take
 a Walk into the Fields, and tho'
 perhaps he would rather have stay'd
 with his Lady, yet good Manners
 oblig'd him to comply, and how
 they entertain'd themselves at first
 I know not, but after sometime he
 told him, he understood, he was
 the next Day to be married; he
 told him it was so intended, and
 he hoped it was out of the power
 of Fate to hinder it. Pray, said
 our topping Spark, what Assuran-
 ces have you of her Vertue. I
 don't think it an easie Matter,
 said the other, to be sure in such
 a Case; but if one may guess at a
 Woman by all outward Appearan-
 ces,

es, by her Conversation, her Conduct, her Carriage, and her Looks, she is one of the most modest of her Sex. Why, then, said this mischievous Companion, because I believe you are a Gentleman, and I think it a great Pitty to see you so imposed upon, I will give you a short Account of this Woman, of whom you have so great an Opinion, and to let you see how much we may be deceived in that Sex, I do positively aver. that this very Woman, of whom you have said so many great Things, has been in Bed with me; and not only so, but she came her self, of her own Accord, in her Smock, and lay with me till I bid her be gone. *Will you,* said the surpriz'd Lover, *stand to what you have said.* Yes, said he, *I will not only say it, but if you require it, I will swear it too; I scorn to belie her, and all I have said of her, is as a great a Truth, as it is a*

pitty. *Why, then, said he, the Devil may marry her for me; and that she shall know this Hour.* Away therefore trotted he with as much spight in his Looks, as a *Papist* throwing rotten Eggs at Dr. Oats; or a Girl, of nine and twenty, going to a Younger Sister's Wedding. When he came into the House, he ask'd, with a surly Look, for the poor Innocent, who never once suspected the Evil that was determined against her; by that time she came down, the Stranger came in, who had been left behind by the furious hast the other had made, and came time enough to hear him reproach her with the scandalous Epithet of Whore, and told her she was so impudently infamous, that she was a shame to every Thing that knew how to pronounce the Word *Modesty*; and turning to his Informer, *I hope, Sir,* said he, *you dare own to her Face what you affirm behind her Back.* *Yes,* said

said the other, *what I have said is true to a Tittle, and nothing shall ever make me deny the least Word of it.* Whereupon this hot Man, without staying for her Answer, flung out of the Houle like a fury, and bid Defiance to all in it, for he was resolved never to see them more. When he was gone, the Bride that should have been, apply'd her self to her Accuser after this manner. *How could you, Sir, said she, have ill Nature enough to study and contrive the Ruin of one, who has never given you the least Provocation; and what manner of Man must he be, that makes his own Jest out of his Fellow Creature's Misery. You can't but be very sensible that you have hindred me from a better Fortune than I must ever hope to have the Offer of again, and you have done that by me, which I should be asham'd to do by you, even now that you have so highly provoked me.* Madam, said he, till this moment

I never had the least cause to call your Discretion in Question, and I am very sorry I have such good Grounds for it now. How can you have the least reluctance at parting with a Man, that has known you for some Years, and, by his own Confession, never saw any thing of you (till now) to your disadvantage; one that loved you well enough to be content to Marry you, and declared the greatest Passion for you, and of a sudden, upon the bare Word of one he never saw before, to fall out into the greatest Abuses, call you Whore, and without giving you time to make, or staying to hear your Defence, fly from you with the greatest Contempt: No, Madam, said he, let it not be in the power of such a Wretch to give you one uneasy Thought, and fear not better Offers than any he has power to make you; I have six times his Fortune, and I think

it

it would not discover much Vanity
 if I should say, my Person de-
 serves as well as his, and if you
 can be content to exchange him for
 me, I am very ready to put my
 self in his place, which was my
 whole Design in coming before my
 Time; I hoped he might be what
 I found him, and I knew if he
 proved such, I should gain my
 Ends. I must own my Opinion
 was once so indifferent of all Wo-
 men, that I did heartily believe
 the same Measures which I took
 with you, would have been suffi-
 cient to have made the severest
 Vertues among them totter; but
 you have convinced me, that it
 was all mistake, and I am brought
 to believe again as I did once, that
 some Women are Bad, and that
 some may be Good; and if I can
 but procure your Consent, I shall
 very willingly confine my self to
 you for ever. There he made a
 full stop, and waited for her An-
 swer,

swer, and she would have acted very different from the Character I have all this while been giving her, had she refused him: But after a very short Consideration; she gave him her result in the Affirmative, and the same Cloaths, the same Dinner, and the same Guests that were design'd for one, serv'd for the other; they would fain have perswaded the first Lover to come and take share of that Dinner at which he was once design'd the chief Guest, but no Argument was strong enough to bring him, for by this time he had heard how foolishly he had lost his Wife, and lay as well under his own Condemnation, for his Folly, as other People's. The new Bridegroom took all the care imaginable to let the World know the Truth, to prevent those Reflections which might have been spread by the Lovers of Scandal and Mischief, all over the Country. And thus,

said

said my Friend, I have had just time to finish my Story, for here is the House.

We went in, and were received by the Bride, and her Spouse, and our Entertainment was such as might have been expected from one of her Fortune and Character. When we had stay'd so long as to leave our selves but just time to get home by Day-light, we parted, and went home, but the Story ran so much in my Head all Night, that in the Morning I found my self very much inclin'd to Poetry, and taking my Pen, I run over the following Lines.

Beauty, whose Charms do captivate the Mind,
And every Slave she takes in Fetters bind,
Which is, alafs, the Fate of all Mankind.

Next Wit, with powerful influence,
Commands our Hearts, and charms our Sense,
And justly has to all a fair Pretence.

Good Humour too, with double Charms appear,
That lasting Blessing which does never wear,
Than which none greater can be given here.

Add

Add unto these a Shape, a Mein, an Air;
 Then tell me, if it be not very rare,
 To meet all those in One?

Yet here, like kind Companions they are met,
 And round the fair One are in order set,
 The ravish'd *Bridgroom* finds his Joys compleat.

About a Month after, my unsettled Circumstances carried me to another part of the Country, where I met with Novelty enough of all Conscience, and as much variety of Tempers as Faces, one fat Swearing and Cursing at his Neighbour's Folly, and then made loud Acclamations of his own Wit; another call'd himself fifty Fools, in order to extort a Compliment from the Company; a third stood Railing at Pride and Fashion; while a fourth, with all the Gaiety of a *Bartholomew* Player, laugh'd at his slovenly dull Fancy, and call'd every thing the Subject of Redicule, which was not the top and pink of the Mode; a fifth, with a laudible Voice, and an affected Gravity, breath'd, or rather

Air; her bellow'd out his Resentments
 against Women in general, and
 said they were the only true and
 lasting Plague, which was design'd
 for the Punishment of sinful Man-
 kind, who had never deserv'd that
 Name, had they never been;
 while his Opposite to the great sa-
 tisfaction of every present She, de-
 clar'd as fast in their Favour, and
 said, No Body could demonstrate
 their ill Nature more, than by pre-
 tending to despise that Creature,
 who first gave him a Being, and
 without whom he must have con-
 tinued in his first Principles, ex-
 cept that Earth could have pre-
 vail'd with the Almighty to Sub-
 stitute new Methods, on purpose
 to cure his implacable causeless A-
 versions; another took all the
 care in the World to shew his Re-
 ligion, while the next Man to him
 did as much, to let us know he
 had none: In short, some Swore,
 some Pray'd, some Lov'd, some
 Hated,

Hated, some Lied, some Spoke
 Truth, (tho' not many of that
 Sort) and nothing could be more
 nonsensically pleasant to a Person
 of any Observation, than this was
 to me: Such a Medley of People
 I had never before met with, and
 finding my self a little inclin'd to
 Impertinence, I resolv'd to show my
 Talent, and put in my Ore a-
 mong the rest. That Fellow that
 had been so lavish, and had given
 his Opinion so freely of the Wo-
 men, stuck in my Gizzard, and I
 had a great mind to have a pluck at
 his Coxcomb; I therefore watch'd
 an Opportunity, and set my self
 down by him, tho' he made as ma-
 ny ugly sour Faces at me, as if
 he had been eating a Crab, and
 with a grunt, gave his Chair a
 heave farther off; I had a great
 mind to get him close into the
 Chimney which was very wide,
 as well as very dirty, the Maid
 of the House happening to be none

of

Spoke the cleanliest; and, in order to
 my design, as he got farther from
 me, I took an occasion, as if by
 chance, to move after him, but he,
 poor Soul, who was not able to
 hear any thing in Petticoats so
 near him, moved till he could go
 no farther for the Wall; he had
 just put on a very good new Suit
 of Cloaths, the Destruction of
 which, I with pleasure foresaw,
 and I got as close to him, as if I
 had been fond of his ill Nature,
 on purpose to keep him in a mo-
 ving posture, till at last with stri-
 ving to avoid me, he had rubb'd
 one side of his Cloaths as diffe-
 rent from the other, as Soot and
 Grease could make them: When I
 saw he had done his worst to his
 Pride, I began to get out of his
 reach, for I durst not depend, ei-
 ther upon his good Nature, or his
 good Manners, for my safety, and
 he who was brimful of Spight,
 and his Gall ready to run over, as
 soon

soon as he saw he had gotten rid
 of me, broke out into this spiteful
 Expression *These damn'd Women*,
men, said he, *will be thrusting*
themselves forward, tho' a Man
does all he can to let them see
how great his Indifference is, and
I wish they all knew how little I
desire their Company, it would
surely be a means to make them
keep their distance a little more.
 That's as it happens, said I, if their
 coming be to please you, it is ten
 to one they may withdraw upon
 such a Repulse, but if it be to
 please themselves, and plague you,
 then the more they know of you,
 the longer they must stay, and I
 can't, for my Life, but fancy that
 your Father was hang'd for lying
 with a Sow, and you are the un-
 natural Offspring, nothing else
 could make you of so Hoggish a
 Temper; had your Mother been a
 Woman, Nature would have taught
 you to have had, at least, com-
 mon

on Civility for them; but your
 soul is as black as one side of
 your Coat, and if you had as
 much of a good Cudgel as you
 deserve, your ugly Hide would be
 of the same Complexion.

At this he turn'd his Head to
 his right Shoulder, to look at his
 Coat, and the mean time I walk'd
 off, while I was Mistress of a whole
 Skin. When he saw what a Con-
 dition he was in, he grew stark
 mad, and after he had given me a
 matter of hundred hearty Curles,
 he went away to scowre his Jacket,
 and I fear all my Endeavours were
 lost upon him, since I hear he cares
 a little for the Women as ever
 he did. In the Evening I went to
 see a poor Woman that was not
 well, and some body had sent her
 a Pint of Claret Wine, (as she
 call'd it) over which she was ma-
 king of Faces, and said it was nasty
 for Stuff, and she could not drink
 why then, said I, do you not
 burn

burn it, and put some Sugar to it
 to make it pallitable? *Alas, Ma-*
dam, forsooth, said she, *I have*
nought but a sorry Wood Fire
and if I put it into burn, I shall ne-
ver get it out again; tho' the poor
 Creature was sick, yet I could not
 forbear laughing at her Ignorance
 however I inform'd her better, and
 then went home with the *Jest*
 But when I came in I found two
 such Figures, as I have good rea-
 son to thank my Stars I never saw
 the like of; one was a great, fat
 staring, sweaty, blowfy Wench
 so bedizen'd, that she look'd like
 a Freezland Hen; the other was
 long, lean, starch'd Piece of For-
 mality, and look'd like the Pe-
 ctore of Famine. I found, by the
 Respect they met with, that they
 were no small Fools, and therefore
 I sat me down intending to be a
 gentle Hearer. The frowzy
 One, undertook to find us all with
 Chat, and had there been as many
 more

more, I dare be bold to say she
 could not have seen any of them
 ant; the Subject to which she
 stuck closest was Love, from
 which she drew several Heads, and
 they all ended in a new Lover, to
 be sure, of whom she had so ma-
 ny, that she was become the only
 Mark for Envy in the whole Coun-
 try, and there is not, said she, an
 unmarried Widow or Maid, with-
 in ten Miles round, but what
 would, with the greatest Content,
 change their Circumstances with
 me, purely upon the Account of
 those Men which I despise and
 scorn; really, Madam, said she, ap-
 prising her self to me, did you but
 know how strangely I am harrest
 with their Importunity, you would
 have the greatest pitty for me in
 the World. Why, truly, Madam,
 said I; Nay, said she, *I know you*
are going to Compliment me, and say
she deserve it all, and therefore I
must interrupt you, for I hate Com-
pliments

pliments from my Friend. Friend
 thought I, what does the Creature
 mean to scandalize me with the
 Name of her Friend, that never
 saw her in my Life before, and
 heartily wish I never may again
 however, I found she was very
 fond of the Talk, and I was re-
 solved she should have it, for after
 that, I open'd not my Mouth
 but answer'd her to all she said with
 a Bow, or a Nod. The other still
 Thing sat mimping her Mouth, as
 if she was to say nothing but pre-
 ens, and had set her Face in a
 much prim, as a She-Quaker be-
 fore the sanctify'd Congregation on
 her Wedding-day; tho' had her in-
 clinations lain never so much to-
 wards a little Chat, Mrs. Prattles
 her Companion, would not leave
 room to thrust in a Word, had
 been to have sav'd her Life. When
 she had impertiniz'd an hour or
 two, and had tired her self with
 Talking, as well as her Companion

my with Hearing, to the great sa-
 tisfaction of the latter, she at last
 got up, and took her Leave; for
 my part, tho' I had often heard
 the Men very severe upon us
 Women, for Loquacity, yet I ne-
 ver met with any thing so intole-
 rable to be borne before. When
 they were gone, I ask'd the Lady
 of the House, who this ill match'd
 Pair was? Why, said she, that e-
 ternal Tongue-pad, that chatter-
 ing Mag-pie, that everlasting Rat-
 tle-Head, that tells more Lies in
 a quarter of an hour, than Truths
 in seven Years, is Daughter to a
 Woman that lives by her Wits, her
 Father I never knew, nor did I e-
 ver hear of any she had, tho' at
 the same time I am apt to think
 she had one too, but I believe he
 was either afraid, or asham'd, to
 marry her. Whereever she goes her
 whole Talk is of her Lovers, tho'
 she never had more than one, that
 she makes Honourable Pretences to her,
 G and

and he, when the Wedding
 Cloaths were made, the Friends
 invited, the Dinner dress'd, and e
 very thing in order, but the Bride
 groom, who turn'd tail, and went to
 show the World how much he re
 pent'd his Bargain. This Disap
 pointment has made her so much
 the Country's Talk, that she has
 no way left to take off the Odium
 of that, but by doing something
 more ridiculous to divert it, and
 thus she strives to drive away
 Extream with another, and hopes
 to avoid the Scandal of no Love
 by setting up, and pretending
 a great many, till by her foolish
 Proceedings she is become the
 ly Jest of the Neighbourhood
 and her best Friends know not how
 to excuse her. And for the other
 said she, she is a sanctified
 Vessel, a precise Fanatick, full
 up of Spiritual Pride, pretended
 Zeal, and an equal Share of
 Hypocrisy, which is too often

true Compound of her sort, and
 no' she has had two Bastards
 by two several Men, yet she sets
 up for as much Modesty and Ig-
 norance, as if she knew no more
 than the Light within. A very
 indifferent Account truly, said I,
 but at my first coming in, by the
 profound Respect you show'd them,
 I thought they had been Quality at
 least; and since you have given
 me their Characters, methinks I
 begin to wonder, that you encour-
 age such People to visit you.
 Why, said she, I am forced to use
 them with more Civility than is
 their Due, or my own In-
 clination to give, on purpose to
 keep them away; should I slight
 them, they will take it for a Sign
 of my Familiarity, and come the
 nearer for it, so that whenever they
 come, I use them with a great deal
 of Ceremony, in order to have
 but few Companies but seldom. I
 often made it my Observa-

tion, said I, that such a deal of forced Modesty, is as sure a sign of an ill Woman, as the same quantity of real Impudence is, and that a Woman, who is always cracking of her multiplicity of Admirers, has seldom more reason for't than a blustering Hector has to brag of his Fighting, when he chuses to be kick'd, rather than venture to draw his Sword. We had no sooner ended our Observations upon those two Wretches but in comes a Man raving, and Swearing and Cursing like a Fiend. *I'm undone*, said he, *I'm ruin'd*, *I'm Damn'd*, *I'm Dead*, *I'm married*: Hold, said I, there is one thing thou hast a better Title to than any of the rest, which thou hast left out, that is, thou art married for nothing else could make thee rave at such a rate, as if thou wast just broke loose from Bedlam. What, said I, can be the meaning of this? Oh, said he, my Wife, *W*ay

deal of
 e a sign
 he same
 e is, and
 always
 y of Ad
 e reason
 ctor ha
 when b
 her tha
 rd. W
 r Obse
 Wretche
 ying, an
 e a Fien
 me ruin
 I'me
 re is o
 Title
 hich th
 u art m
 make d
 thou w
 Bedla
 e mean
 Wife,
 W

wife; alafs, said I, What, is she
 dead? No, said he, *would she were;*
but she has made me a Cuckhold, which
is ten times worse, and I can't bear
it, I shall certainly hang my self to
get rid of her: Ay, said I, that is
 one sure way; but, how do y'e
 know all this? Your Wife is a ve-
 ry good Woman, and has the Love
 of all her Neighbours, and I don't
 believe she would do you, or any
 body alive, the least Injury: Oh,
 said he, *I came in, and found her*
in her Smock just now, going to Bed,
and a Man in the Room ready to go
with her. Well, said I, then you
 have time enough to prevent your
 own Fate; and what need is there
 of making your Self, and your
 Wife, a Jest to your Neighbours for
 nothing.

I am resolv'd to know the bot-
 tom of this Fool's Story you have
 made, and I'll lay a Crown to a
 pound if you are in the wrong.
 Away went I to his House, and

found the poor Woman crying, and fretting her self to Death, and almost distracted; preethy, Neighbour, said I, what is the matter, and the meaning of all this noise? Why, forsooth, said she, the Tailor brought me home a new Pair of Stays just now, and I pull'd off my old ones to try them on, and, just as I was about it my Husband came in, and swore I was going to Bed with the Man; and tho' I call'd after him to hear Reason, yet he run out like one distracted, and has told all the Town that I have made him a Cuckhold. Well, well, said I, for that matter, you need not much afflict your self, since every body knows both you and him too well to believe it; but I'll go and ring him a Peal, and then send him home to you; tho' I could have beaten his thick Scull to a Jelly, yet I could not forbear Laughing, to see the Dunder-Head, in the midst of all his Fury, stand gaping at me for

crying, for the Excuse I had brought, but
 and I was so mad with him, that I had
 Neigh- no patience left: Go, said I, thou
 matter, Wind-mill-pated Fool, thou Scan-
 noise? dal to every Thing that has com-
 Tailor mon Sense, would any Thing but
 of Stays such a Dolt as thou art, expose
 old ones his Wife, and make himself the
 was a Country Talk, for his own non-
 in, and sensical Mistake: Get you home,
 b the said I, and try if your abused Wife,
 him to and alarm'd Neighbours, can
 like one have goodness enough to for-
 e Town give your inconsiderate Folly:
 ckhold. Well, well, but, said he, pray ye
 t mat- now do not be so angry, Mistriss, if
 afflict he was not going to Bed, what was
 knows he doing without her Cloaths, the
 to be Weather is no so whor and puthery.
 ng him Go home, said I, you Coddle-
 home Skull, and ask the Tailor that
 beaten was trying on her new Stays, Ads-
 yet I matrelaits, said Roger, naw yo' put
 to see me in mind of it, I remember the
 midst of fellow is a Tailor, but, what said
 at me is that all then? Yes, said I,

it is all at present, but if she uses you as you deserve, it will not be so long. *Nay, nay, Mistress, said he, do not you be too forward with your Advice neither, by---* Lady, you are all so ready to take one another's Parts, that right or wrong we must say nothing, but I'll go whome to our Lonce, and give her a new Pair of Shooes, an she will but be Friends *Wo-ma, tho' I shall have the worst of it; for I'll warrant, if I catch her in Bed with any body now, I must say something, because I have been mistaken once already.*

Thus, with Impertinence of all sorts, I diverted my self for a considerable time, and had very great hopes that I might have been exempted from being an Actor myself in the Comedy; but my persecuting Stars appear'd to me in the Shape of a Lover, and drew me in for my part, whether I would or no: For, after I had spent some Months like a Wanderer,

er, and had seen almost as many
Places as Faces, I was at last resol-
ved to fix, at least for the Winter
Season, and in order thereto I be-
took my self to a Friend's House
where I knew I could be easy,
with a design to spend my time as
free from Business, Noise, and
Folly, as I could, and I prom-
is'd my self a quiet Retreat from
what I had so lately had a Sur-
feit of.

But not many Days after I had
list'd my self under this Banner of
Peace, I was accosted by a Gen-
tlemen of a good Estate, and that's
the best I can say of him; this
Man, tho' his Talent lay not
much that way, made violent
Court to me, and tho' it was not
dress'd up in a Coat of Eloquence,
yet it serv'd to inform me of his
Design, and now and then for va-
riety he would stumble upon a
high flown Strain, which burst out
upon me like a Clap of Thunder,

and surpriz'd me as much, because as little expected: His Person, his Wit, his Ayr, his Dress, was all a Jest, and at first I was well enough pleas'd to divert myself with him, because I found he was very capable of supplying the place of an Owl, or a Munkey, or any other ridiculous Creature, which one would have kept for Sport; however, I knew the same Fools Tricks over and over, would, in a little time, tire me; but I had some hopes left of his growing weary as well as I, and I knew that little Soul of his, which inhabited in his more despicable Body, would never fix upon any thing less sordid than it self: But my hopes were groundd upon a false bottom, and he persisted in his fruitless Attempts longer than I either expected, or desired, nor was it his Importunities alone which I had to struggle with, but the Perswasions of all my Friends,

who

who
state,
cient
tho' i
Circu
How
I, no
Test,
easine
and r
ing t
Root
more
on, a
self
could
thing
for,
lung
Palla
out n
no R
that,
mode
nitel
and

who look'd no farther than his E-
 state, and thought that alone suffi-
 cient to make a Woman happy,
 tho' it came attended with all the
 Circumstances of a Coxcomb:
 However, I consider'd that it was
 I, not they, that must stand the
 Test, and that all the following un-
 easiness would ly at my Door,
 and therefore, tho' they were will-
 ing to sacrifice my Content to that
 Root of all Evil, *Money*, yet I had
 more regard to my own Satisfacti-
 on, and was resolv'd to keep my
 self free from an Estate, till I
 could find it coupled with some-
 thing more acceptable than it self;
 for, tho' Beauty satisfies not an
 hungry Soul, nor Wit a thirsty
 Pallat; tho good humour keeps
 out no Cold, and Breeding pays
 no Rent, yet I always thought
 that, all or some of those, with a
 moderate Competency, was infi-
 nitely preferable, to none of them,
 and Superfluity. This Man (as
 we

we naturally all have) had a very good Opinion of his own Merits, and fancied himself in all Points extremely agreeable, insomuch, that he never doubted a Conquest where-ever he made Pretensions; but tho' he was risen to such a pitch in his own Conceit, to me he seem'd the very Quintessence of Folly; nay, and what was worse, of ill-Nature too, so that instead of returning his Love, I began to have as great an Aversion for him, as an *Irish*-man has for a——, or the Handle of a Sword for a Furbolo'd Scarf: However, that good Manners, which he wanted, made me civil enough to forbear Affronts, and tho' I gave him not the least Incouragement, yet I could not prevent giving him my Company sometimes, he being an intimate Friend to the Relations I was with, and one for whom (tho' it very much lessen'd them) they had a considerable Respect. Thus I

went

went on, for some Months, with-
 out making any great discovery of
 my Inclinations, because I knew
 they would please no body but
 my self, and was all that time
 mightily perswaded to accept of
 the Gentleman's Offers, which I
 always thought he made with
 some reserve. I had one only
 Brother, who was then from
 home, and gone for a considera-
 ble time ; he was a Man of very
 good Circumstances, and had gi-
 ven me reason to hope for a Sup-
 ply of all my Wants from his
 Bounty, and it was upon him that
 my Dependance chiefly was ; this
 my Spark knew, and often wish'd
 for his return, because till then,
 he had no certainty to depend up-
 on, and, indeed, he had so much
 of a wise Man, as to love to tread
 on sure Grounds. I soon found
 by all his Proceedings, (which he
 had not Wit enough to manage
 with Address, or Privacy enough

to keep him from being discover'd) that all his Designs were mercenary, and because I would not show less Discretion in my Actions, than he did in his, I was resolv'd first to be sure they were so, and then use him accordingly: And to that end, by degrees, I wound my self into the favour of one, who was proud of being thought his Confident, which I did more to satisfy my own Curiosity than out of any real Love I had for her, or desired she should have for me; however, after a little Insinuation betwixt Wheadle and Pump, (which is never so excusable as upon such occasions) I found out her blind side, and made a discovery of his Heart; at second hand I found that all his Wishes center'd in my Brother's Bags, and that all the Love he had for me, took its first Rise from the hopes of his Estate. This I own, added Scorn to my Indifference, and a
 desire

desire
 was f
 ved f
 was,
 thing
 woul
 cold.
 cruel
 could
 that
 but I
 little
 but
 hand.
 had
 my S
 a Sch
 was c
 maki
 and
 whos
 of an
 best
 tune
 dily
 sentm

desire of Revenge to both, and I
 was so vain as to think, I deser-
 ved such a worthless Animal as he
 was, if I had been Mistress of no-
 thing more, than barely what
 would have fenced me from the
 cold. I was not of a revengeful or
 cruel Nature, and consequently
 could not resolve to do any thing
 that would be pernicious to him;
 but I thought if I made my self a
 little Sport with him, it would be
 but a just return for his under-
 hand-dealing with me. When I
 had made a full Discovery of all
 my Suspicions, I then began to lay
 a Scheme for my^d Design, which
 was only to put him into a way of
 making himself the Country Talk;
 and knowing him to be a Man,
 whose shallow Intellects admitted
 of any Imposition, I thought it
 best to bait my Hook with a For-
 tune which I knew he would gree-
 dily catch at, and hiding my Re-
 sentments with a great deal of care,

I fetch'd him about to my Lure, sent him to make a Jest for all that knew him. He was, as I have already hinted, a Man who had very favourable Thoughts of himself, and I did believe it would be no hard Matter to persuade him, that some unknown She, was desperately and dangerously in Love with him: I therefore writ a Letter, as from the Love-sick Lady, which the Reader may be pleas'd to take as follows.

SIR,

LAST Summer, at Leicester Horse-Race, it was my fortune to see a Gentleman to whom I was very much a Stranger, whose Person made such an Impression in my Heart, that I immediately found myself in the greatest Disorder, and was forced, tho' with some repugnance, to make enquiry after a Man, whose Character I was afraid to hear; but, at last, to my great Satisfaction, I

heard

Lure, heard he was a single Man. I have
 I that ever since endeavour'd to stifle my
 ve al- growing Folly, but finding it too strong
 d ve- for me, I am forced to have recourse
 nself, to the last Remedy, and apply myself
 e no to you for Cure. My Person is no
 that way to be despis'd, my Fortune and
 espe- Family are above your Wishes, and
 Love if you think it worth your while to
 tter, go to Morrow to B——h, attended
 hich only by your Man, I have ordered a
 ke a Servant, in a yellow Livery, to wait
 for you, who will conveigh you to me;
 you may know him by a blue Ribband
 tied to the Cock of his Hat for that
 purpose. If you come, you shall cer-
 tainly know me; if you do not, you
 must live in Ignorance, and I in
 Love. Adieu.

When I had written this Letter,
 I sent it eight Miles from home,
 to a Town, where his Brother ne-
 ver fail'd to be once a Week, and
 to whom I had it delivered by a
 Stranger; at Night he comes home,
 and

and without the least Suspicion of either side, this loving Epistle was delivered by one, and receiv'd by the other, to his very great surprize, as well as content: Oh, could I but have seen his inside, how many despicable Thoughts should I have discover'd there of my self, and how often did he thank his kind fate, that had still preserv'd him for such a Blessing as only waited his Acceptance. As soon as he had read the Letter, he call'd a counsel together, to advise what was to be done, (tho' with the greatest secrecy for fear it should reach my Ears,) and at last it was resolv'd *Nemine contradicente* that he should go. The next Morning early I had my Scout abroad, to wait and watch his motion; and after two hours expectation, he brought me word, that the Knight was sail'd out to meet the enchanted Lady. As soon as I had my intelligence I began

can to prepare to follow him,
 and having every thing in rea-
 diness, I was not long before
 was ready to mount a single
 Horse, which I had order'd to
 carry me; and thus attended by
 a Servant in a yellow Livery, and
 having disguis'd my self past be-
 ing found out by his dull appre-
 hension, I rode in Tryumph to
 see my own satisfaction com-
 pleted; and after I had kept
 him staring about like what he
 was, for some hours, I at last
 made my personal appearance, in
 cognito, as I was. My Man's
 yellow Jacket gave the first alarm,
 upon sight of which the bold
 Squire venter'd to accost me, tho'
 he knew not what to say; but af-
 ter a little thinking, he at last
 told me he was glad with all his
 Heart, I was come, for it was a
 very cold Day: *I was in hopes,*
Sir, said I, (with an affected Lisp,
 and a low Tone) *that you might*
have

have been as much in Love as I, and then that would have kept you warm. Oh, Madam, said he, I have been in Love a hundred times, but could never get my self a heat by it yet. No, said I, you are a cold Lover indeed, as well as a general one, and I am very sorry to hear you say you have loved so many, it is a sign of a great deal of Levity, and I begin to fear I shall keep you no longer then the rest have done; pray, how many Mistresses may you have at present, because I should be glad to know the number of my Rivals.

Why, for that, Madam, said he, you need not much fear, I have but one, beside your self, and her I have discarded ever since I receiv'd your Letter; for, to tell you the truth, if I had Married her I knew not how to come by her Fortune: By this time we come to the Inn, where I was resolv'd his Purse should pay for my Journey, and when we were alighted, we call'd for a good Fire, by

by which we sat us down, and for
 the space of half an Hour continu-
 ed very silent; for my part I was
 afraid, that now I was out of the
 Wind, and was gotten into a close
 Room, where there was little or
 no Air to take away part of the
 sound, my Voice would have be-
 tray'd me, and that made me keep
 my Tongue to my self a little lon-
 ger, then otherways I should have
 done. At last, Sir, said I, methinks
 we look like a Couple of unspeaking
 Fortune-tellers, who make their Se-
 crets known by dumb show, and with-
 out doubt you consider that it is by
 my appointment you are come, and
 you expect I should tell you my Busi-
 ness, but that I thought I had done
 pretty well already in my Letter, and
 since the Subject I have to treat upon,
 is so very unfit for a Woman's Mouth,
 I was in hopes you would have saved
 my Blushes, and would have gone on
 from the Place I left off at: But I
 fear you do not like me, and I must ei-

ther pursue a Subject, which I am
 and have cause to be asham'd of, or
 I find, I must return as empty
 hopes as I came here. Why, loo
 ye, said he, as you say the Busines
 is yours, and not mine, you can't ex
 pect that I should say much till I know
 you better; but if you will let me
 know who you are, and what Mone
 you have got, you shall see then what
 I will say to you. I shall hear, you
 mean, but is it possible, said I, that
 you can be such a Slave to your God
 Mammon, as to slight one that loves
 you, if she should chance to have no
 Fortune; I expected the first Request
 you would have made to me, would have
 been to have seen my Face, but I find
 every thing is indifferent to you but
 Money. Why truly, Madam, said
 he, you are in the right, for if I had,
 or could have been satisfied without
 Money, I would have stay'd where I
 was, and look'd no farther for a Wife,
 but you sent me Word your Fortune
 was above my Wishes; and, to tell

you

I am the truth, it was that which
 brought me here. Oh, then, said I,
 I find the Golden Bait hangs at the
 Line of your Expectation still; pray,
 was this other Lady to whom you
 have made Addresses so long, gi-
 ven you any Assurance of her Fa-
 your, because, methinks, you speak
 of her, as if you might have her
 at an Hour's warning; I should be
 sorry to hear that she has hang'd her
 self for you. No, said he, I hope
 she will not be such a Fool, but, no
 doubt, I may have her when I please.
 Well, said I, we will have no more
 of her, but come a little nearer to
 the point: You are to know, that
 from the first time of my unfortunate
 Interview till this Day, I have lan-
 guish'd under a profound Disquiet,
 and after a strict Enquiry into my
 own Condition, I found it was migh-
 ty Love that had given me all my
 pain; and when I had discover'd the
 Cause, I then began to think of a Cure,
 which I found I could not perfect with-
 out

out your help; this was the Reason why I sent to you to give me the Meeting, that I may know my Fate, and I find, by the little Conversation I have had with you, that I shall have no great Cause to despair; when I have told you, that I have Three Thousand Pounds in my own Hands to dispose of as I please, and I hope it is a Sum that will content you, since you may have it without any uncertainty, or trouble. Here I stopt, to give my Spark an Opportunity of telling me how gladly he embraced the offer I had made him; but instead of that, he got up and went to the door to knock for a Candle and a Pipe. This insensibility surpriz'd me extreamly, and I began to fear he had found me out; tho', as it happen'd, he had only a mind to show himself in all his Airs, and while he smok'd to studdy an Answer. At last he put an end to his Pipe, and my Expectations, and told me

with

with
that
I had
Resolu
little
Friend
I, if yo
it woul
to give
know y
well a
glad o
vour;
may b
Lady,
ing, a
her Fe
heartil
ture L
to her,
and sho
see it,
before.
make o
to grea
desire.

with a very unusual Discretion,
 that he had consider'd of what
 I had said, but could come to no
 Resolution, till he knew me a
 little better, and had told his
 Friends who I was, No hold, said
 I, if you can't keep a Secret I must,
 it would be the greatest Imprudence,
 to give you a power to expose me ; I
 know you Men have your Vanities as
 well as we Women, and are as
 glad of an Occasion to boast of a fa-
 vour ; beside, I know not but that you
 may be too far gone with the other
 Lady, of whom we have been speak-
 ing, and then I shall be made both
 her Jest and yours ; but if you will
 heartily renounce, and forswear all fu-
 ture Love, Liking, and Inclination
 to her, I will carry you with me home,
 and show you my Face ; and when you
 see it, you will say, you have seen it
 before. Well, said he, if you can
 make out your Fortune, I shall make
 no great Scruple of doing what you
 desire. Thus did I sit, and hear
 H my

my self despis'd for one, that for ought he knew, had the Face of a Bear, or something worse. The Day before, I am to tell the Reader I was invited to a Gentleman's House to Dinner, where all the Neighbouring young People were to meet, and be merry; to this House I carried my empty Bubble, and when I had him in the midst I got near to two or three of my Acquaintance, who had been privy to all I had done, and then I said, *Sir, you have been pleas'd to renounce your old Mistress between You and I; I desire, for the Satisfaction of my Friends, that you will do it before them too, and then I am bare-fac'd for ever.*

He, who knew the Gentleman of the House as well as I, and that he had a Daughter who was a good Fortune, made no manner of doubt but it was she he had got ten in Maskarade, and seeing so much Company, and the Minister

of the Parish there, he thought there was no more for him to do, but to say, *I Ichabod, take thee Semi-ma*, and therefore made no difficulty to say as much before them all as he had done before to my self; upon which I pull'd off my Mask, to the very great Diversion of the Company, and the very great surprize and confusion of my poor disappointed Lover.

Well, Sir, said I, have you ever seen my Face before, or no? But your Thoughts are so taken up with the great Fortune, that you have not time to consider of any thing but her; I heartily wish you Joy, and hope you can have Charity enough for me, your poor Cast-away, to invite me to your Wedding, and present me with a pair of Gloves; that's the least I can have to repair my Loss.

I protest, I could almost be angry with you for going upon such a weighty Expedition, without making me Partner in the Transport; you used

to say, you never did any thing, tho
of the smallest Consequence, without
my Advice, and I can't see why it
might not have been as much to your
Advantage now, as it used to be; but
when Men go a Fortune-hunting, they
think they have no great need of Ad-
vice, because it is a Work that ad-
mits of no Argument against it; so
who in his right Wits would lose a
pretty Lady so much in Love, with
the additional Blessing of Three Thou-
sand Pounds, for one who had only
the Expectation of half as much. No
really, said I, you were in the right
if you had had but Certainty along
with you.

But since you went without my Ad-
vice, I would fain have you take
little of it now you are come back
which is to provide your self of an As-
sop, and turn to the Fable of the
Dog, and the Shadow, the Moral
which, if well apply'd, will for the
future prevent such another miscar-
riage. When I had ended the

Speech

Speech, which was attended with as much Scorn as Reproach, I sat me down to breath a while, and left my poor Spouse, that should have been, standing in the midst representing *Lot's Wife*. But one Gentleman in the Company, whose Merits deserved a better Fortune than he was at that time Master of, out of pure pitty to him, came and took him by the Hand, and made him sit down; saying, Come, Sir, cheer up; you have, it's true, been out-witted by the Lady; and you must not take it ill, if I say, you have, in a great measure, deserv'd it: However, to let you see that it is not your Fate alone to be laugh'd at, and that Women can be mercenary, as well as Men, I'll tell you a Story.

When I was a young Man, about Nineteen years of Age, my Father, who had two Sons elder than I, was not willing to keep us all at home; tho' he had a ve-

ry plentiful Estate, and could well enough afford it. However, to ease himself, as well as to put me in a way of getting my own Bread, he bought me a Commission, and put me into the Army. Some time after, the Regiment was commanded to *Flanders*, where I served two whole years, in the same station I left *England* in; at last an Opportunity offer'd to my advantage, and I had the good Fortune of doing some things, which made me remarkable. I had from my Child-hood been fond of a Sword, and could never be brought to Study any thing, but *English* Military Discipline, in which I always very much delighted, which my Father took notice of; and seeing my Genius lay so much that way, he provided for me accordingly. When I was fixt in the Army it still grew more delightful to me, and I began to despize all the softer Pleasures of Hu-

mane

mane Life ; I wondred how so ma-
 ny young Men could lie at home
 warpt up in Ease and Luxury,
 while their King and Country, nay,
 and their own safety, wanted their
 help Abroad: I was surprized
 to think, how any Creature, so no-
 ble as Man, could lye whining, an
 Age at a Woman's feet to be us'd
 like an Ass at last, when Honour
 call'd so loud for his Assistance
 elsewhere; and I often pittied
 those things, that are proud of be-
 ing dignified and distinguished by
 the Name of Beau, whose care was
 wholly bestowed on Pride, Love,
 Scandal and Reflections upon the
 Transactions Abroad, tho' they
 themselves durst draw nothing but a
 Snuff-Box; but those Faults which
 I so heartily declaim'd against, in
 a little time became too strong
 for me, and in spite of all my
 Resolution, got the upper hand,
 and forced me to submit to the
 powerful God, who vow'd revenge

against me for my Contempt of him.

I had, as I have already told you, signalized my self a little in an Action or two, where Fortune favour'd me with the better, and that by degrees made our late excellent Prince take some Notice of me, and he who was all Justice, Goodness and Gratitude, never fail'd to reward great Actions, because they were the Delight of his noble Soul, and from a Captain he rais'd me to a Lieutenant Colonel, which inspir'd me with new Courage, and I could rather have chosen to die under that belov'd Monarch's Command, than to have lived under any other Prince in *Christendom*: Tho' I knew not the worth of Her that was to Succeed him, and now I do, I may boldly say, that as she deserves the best Endeavours of all her Subjects, so not one of them shall, with a heartier Zeal, and a truer Courage, lay his

of his Life and Fortune at her Feet than
 I will do, if need require it: But
 to go on, we had, for some time,
 laid close Siege to a Town which
 held us longer than we expected,
 and we had made many brave, tho'
 ineffectual Attempts; at last, be-
 ing quite tired with Delay, we
 resolv'd to Storm, or Die, and with
 Hearts becoming true *English* Men,
 we beat off all their Men from
 their Walls, and got to their very
 Gates; but they who were as reso-
 lute in keeping their Town, as
 we were in taking of it, made a
 most vigorous Defence, and beat
 us back with the loss of a great
 many Men, some kill'd, and some
 taken Prisoners; among the lat-
 ter of which I was one. I can't de-
 scribe the Rage I was in, at such
 a Disappointment, tho' like an an-
 gry Lion in a Toil, I was forced
 to submit, and Patience *per force*,
 was all I had to trust to; I found I
 had lost my Liberty, and with it,

a power of serving my Prince
 However, being in a considerable
 Post, I was made a Prisoner in the
 Governor's own House, where I
 was entertain'd according to his
 Circumstances, and my own, (not
 as a Prisoner) but a Field Officer,
 and I wanted nothing but Liberty,
 which was the only Thing denied
 me: The Governor, who was a
 Man of nice Breeding, as well as
 much good Humour, had all the
 Regard in the World to my quiet,
 and used me much more like a
 Friend than an Enemy, and one
 Day at Dinner he ask'd me, in a
 jocos way, whether I could bear
 the sight of the Ladies; for if,
 said he, you be not too much a
 Soldier to be diverted with their
 Impertinence, we will have their
 Company, and try how far they
 have power to dissipate that Cloud
 which the Fortune of War has ga-
 ther'd about your Brow. Sir, said
 I, my present Circumstances admits

not

not of any Gallantry, and I am at best
 but a sort of a rough hewn Fellow,
 very unfit for the Conversation of the
 Fair Sex, tho', if ever I were fit for
 their Entertainment it is now, while
 I am forc'd to live in Idleness, and
 while I have nothing to do, but to in-
 dulse my Pleasures, which is what
 I always scorn'd, till necessity oblig'd
 me to what my Will hates; but, Sir,
 said I, I have not been bred so much
 a Soldier, but that I understand good
 Manners, enough to make me civil
 to all I see in this House, where I
 have met with such Usage. The
 Governor told me he was glad I
 liked my Treatment, and promis'd
 me a continuance of it till I had my
 liberty again. When we had din'd,
 I got up and went to my own
 Appartment, where I spent my
 time in profound Malancholly, till
 Supper, and then I was summon'd
 to appear again.

I obey'd; and found the Gover-
 nor, accompany'd with his Wife,

two Daughters and a Niece : I saluted them all in their turns, and paid them that respect which their Quality exacted; I found them very pleasant and agreeable, tho' I never once suspected, or fear'd what was coming upon me; the Niece, it's true, I beheld with some admiration, and I can't say I ever saw any thing that deserv'd it more; her Hair, Eyes and Teeth were Beautiful to a Miracle, and her Skin was infinitely beyond what I have often heard call'd fine; her Shape and Air were very engaging, and tho' I was still unapprehensive of my own danger, yet I thought her one continued Charm, and often (tho' unknown to my self) I found my Eyes fixt upon her, which she with repeated Blushes took notice of; her Judgment was as piercing as her Eyes, and she soon made a right Interpretation of my Looks; my thoughts too were wholly hers, and

and I
like L
most
From
slave,
of see
some
discov
began
Conf
for e
taken
these
make
of th
hers;
portu
foun
pect
since
bal I
I co
Han
reme

and I was of a sudden forced to, like Love, admire, and die for the most beautiful Creature on Earth. From that moment I became her slave, and lost not one opportunity of seeing her. Thus I went on, for some time, without making any discovery of my Love; at last, I began to consider that my present Confinement would not hold long, for either the Town would be taken, or I should be releas'd; these thoughts made me resolve to make her a partner of the Secrets of that Heart, which was wholly hers; I often wished for an opportunity of seeing her alone, but found it was not to be expected, and therefore one Day since I could not make a Verbal Declaration of my Thoughts, I conveigh'd a Paper into her Hand, which, as near as I can remember, contain'd these Words.

YOU

Madam,

YOU have not only kindled a fire in my Breast, but you daily add Fuel to the Flame; I have borne it as long as with safety I can; but I find, if I call not out for help, I must consume to Ashes, and perish without hopes of redress: Fortune, and you, have both conspired to make me a Captive, and a Slave, and tho' I scorn her pitty, yet yours I beg, since you alone have power over my Fate, to make me always happy, or always wretched.

To this I set my Name, and unseen by any body, I gave it her. She at first drew back, as if she had a mind to refuse it, but her Curiosity got the better of her Pride, and she took it, and went out. I waited with the greatest impatience, for her return, but saw her not again that Day, which made me very uneasie, and I began to repent that I had discover'd my Love. The next Day she came

to Din
safe m
watch
see no
there.
got up
the we
Letter
soon a
my se
where
durst
my Fa
in all
break
and f
expre

SI
W
I dia
Petin
Relea
it, I
to af

to Dinner, but would not vouch-
safe me so much as a Look. I
watch'd her angry Eyes, but could
see nothing but my own Ruin
there. When Dinner was over, she
got up in hast to be gone, and as
she went by me she threw me a
Letter, which I took up, and as
soon as I could handsomly disengage
my self, I went to my Chamber,
where I sat some time before I
durst open it. I knew it inclosed
my Fate, and I was forced to call
in all my Courage to help me to
break the Seal ; at last I ventur'd,
and found her Resentments thus
expres'd.

SIR,

WHEN I took your imperti-
nent Paper from your Hand,
I did suppose it might have been a
Petition to me, to intercede for your
Release ; but when I came to examine
it, I found you had Assurance enough,
to affront me with your Love. Per-
haps,

haps, you think to take the Town and my Heart together, and that the making sure of one, is the first and surest step to the other ; but I can assure you, your Politicks will fail you, and therefore I advise you in time, to give up your hopes ; and if you have a mind to escape the Punishments due to your Insolence, you must, for the future, forbid your self so much as a Thought of the incensed

Dorothea.

This Letter I read with a great deal of Indifference, which was more than I thought I should have done at first ; and, tho' it was neither true Lover, nor true Soldier like, to be discouraged at the first Repulse, yet I saw so much Insolence, Pride and ill Nature in every Line of it, that I e'ne resolv'd to obey her first Command, and never think of her more. And I began now to lament my being a Prisoner more than ever, because it

had

had rendred me liable to the In-
 sinuations of that Idle, blind God,
 whose power, I will not say none
 but fools do obey, but none but
 fools ought to do so. And I
 could not but think her proceed-
 ings against me, were such as I de-
 served, for being such a block-head
 to give way to a passion I had all-
 ways made the strongest Resoluti-
 ons against. I can't say, I stiff'd
 my resentments, for I really had
 none, but had perswaded my self
 to be very easie, and appear'd with
 more Gaiety than before, which
 the too Beautious *Dorothea* took
 notice of, and was inwardly vext,
 to see her self us'd with so much
 indifference: And whether she
 did it to draw me into Fool's Pa-
 radice (as I have good reason
 since to believe) or what other de-
 sign she had, I know not, but it
 is certain, that she turn'd from one
 extream to another, from an ex-
 cess of Pride and Scorn, to that of
 the

the humblest Jestures, and mildest Behaviour, in the World. I was some time before I durst cast an Eye towards her, and I had brought my self well to my own wishes, that I began to be very indifferent whether I ever came within reach of her dangerous Face again; but she had no mind to lose an easy Fool, and therefore took all Opportunities, both by Words and Actions, to show her Esteem. One day at Dinner she took a Glass of Wine, and drank to me, saying, *Come, Sir, here is to your double Deliverance, and may every body contribute, according to their power, towards it, till you are what you wish to be.* This began to revive my dying hopes, and every body must allow, that what she had said was very great Encouragement, especially coming from one who, but a few days before, seem'd so very refractory to all my Wishes, tho' a smaller Matter would have been

been sufficient to have excited me
 to Love, and I grew ten times
 more fond, and a Fool, than ever.
 In short, I said all that so violent
 a Passion could inspire me with,
 and received in return, as much as
 I could in reason expect. I shan't
 trouble you with a particular Re-
 cital of our daily Proceedings, be-
 cause it would be both tedious,
 and impertinent, I shall only tell
 you, that I made so fair a progress
 in my Love, as that in a few Days
 I procur'd a Promise from the ado-
 rable *Dorothea* to crown all my
 Wishes; this made every thing ea-
 sie to me, and I often thank'd that
 power which had thrown me into
 Bondage, only to make me the
 happiest Man alive. I was resol-
 ved to strike the Iron while it was
 hot, and therefore desired that the
 next Day might make us one.
 To this she likewise consented, and
 said it should be her care to provide
 a Priest. In the mean time, the
 General

General of our Army, who was in daily expectation of taking the Town, had upon that score neglected my release; but when he saw it held out, and was in a fair way to do so till the Year was too far spent, he then sent Conditions to the Governor about my Liberty, which he accepted of. And the very Morning preceding that Night, which should have thrown me into the Arms of all my Happiness, I saw the Governor come into my Chamber, and told me I was no longer his Prisoner, but might go back to the Army, which he expected me to do in a few hours: He knew not one tittle of the mutual Love that was betwixt his Niece and me, nor what a killing Blow he had given me; but surely Liberty never came in a worse time to any Body under Confinement, than it did at that time to me. I knew not what

course

course was best to be taken, to
finish the Work of that Day.

I was almost at my Wits end
to think how near I was to my
happiness, and yet how impossible
it was to compleat it. I was re-
solved to see *Dorothea* before I
went, tho' I knew not how to
bring it about; I consider'd the
Ladies never appear'd till Dinner,
and that would be longer than
I should be admitted to stay. I
went however to the Governor to
take my Leave of him, and to ex-
press my Gratitude for my kind
Treatment, and then desired to
see the Ladies: He told me it
wanted some Hours of their Time
of leaving their Chambers, but
that he would be the Bearer of my
Service to them all, which would
be the same thing as if I had seen
them my self, tho' I could have
convinced him that he was not
in the right. I found this would
not do, and that there was no
hopes

hopes of bringing my Designs about that way, and I had but one more left to try, which was to faint my self sick, and of a sudden complain'd of violent Gripings and other Disorders, which made me utterly unable to stir. I told the Governor how Ill I was, and hoped, as he had used me all this while with greater favour than I could have expected, so he would continue his goodness, and admit me to stay a little longer, till I was better able to remove.

He told me, while I was his Prisoner, both his Humanity and Generosity oblig'd him to use me well; but now, said he, I am to look upon you as an Enemy at large, and therefore sick or well, a few Hours must carry you out of the Town. I was glad, however, to hear that I had a few Hours given me, and was conducted back by my Guards to my Chamber, where I had not been long

long before I was visited by all the
 Ladies, who came to my Bed-side to
 enquire after my Health. *Dorothea*,
 (whose Looks struck the greatest
 Concern) came and sat down by
 me, and softly ask'd me, Why I
 was resolv'd, either to die, or
 leave her? I took her by the
 Hand, and, in a low Tone, bid her
 come again, and she should know.
 At this she got up, and said,
Sir, I believe you have a mind to
sleep, and Company may be trou-
blesome, it will therefore be best
to leave you. I made no great
 matter of Answer, but as if my
 pain had stopt my Mouth, I let
 them go, in order to *Dorothea's*
 return. In half an hour after she
 came back, and with the greatest
 signs of a deep Concern, she la-
 mented both our Misfortunes, and
 said, *It was impossible for her to sup-*
port her self under the Thoughts of
my going, or dying; as for the lat-
ter, said I, you need not lye under a-
 ny

my great apprehension, since it is a
pretence, nor had I any other way
left to procure a sight of you before
went, but this. Go, I must, and that
immediately, the Thoughts of which
are more insupportable than Death
because I must leave all that is dear
to me behind; but I verily hope
and believe, it will not be long be-
fore I see the inside of this Town
again, tho' upon very different Terms
and all I have to beg, at present, of
you, is to keep, and confirm those Pro-
mises you have made me; for, when-
ever you go back one tittle from them
I am from that moment to date my
inevitable Ruin.

Oh, suspect me not of Falshood
said the weeping Dorothea, for
Threats nor Menaces, Racks nor Tor-
tures, shall ever have power to make
me banish you from my Heart and
Thoughts one moment; not the Face
of an Angel, with the Wealth of
both Indies added to it, should be of
force to make me break my Vows to

you

you ; no, as I am, so will I keep my
 self, most entirely yours : This I in-
 voke Heaven to witness for me, and
 when I renounce what I have now said,
 may its Vengeance closely pursue me,
 and light upon my guilty Head, as
 the just Reward of so much baseness.
 And when I forget thee ; said I, may
 I be branded with the Black Names
 of an Ingrate, and a Coward ; And
 then rising from my Bed (where
 I had lain till then) for fear of be-
 ing surpriz'd on my Feet, I took
 a sad Leave of my dear Dorothea,
 and begg'd her to go to her own
 Apartment for fear of a Discove-
 ry, which with many Convulsions
 of the Mind she did. As soon as
 she was gone, I prepar'd to go
 too ; and was so well satisfied
 with the Promises she had made
 me, that I thought it out of the
 power of Fate to rob me, of what
 I must still own, was very dear
 to me.

I

When

When I had parted with her, I had no longer any business there, but went to desire the Governor to send me away, which he did with a Convoy to our own Army. And thus I saw my Body once more at liberty, tho' my Mind was still in chains, and so besotted was I with my Love, that the thoughts of her was infinitely more pleasing to my ravish'd mind, than either Life or Liberty, or any other Good, and I had no uneasiness at any thing but the want of power to send to her ; I knew it would be the hardest matter to hear from her, and I fear'd it would be a work of more time than I at first imagin'd, to make our selves Masters of the Town, and I was forced to be content, for almost a month, to live upon my own Thoughts. I will not trouble the Ladies with any particulars of the Siege, except what is material to the Account I am to give of my Usage.

Usage
an
Doro
was
as
one
mid
prov
we w
the C
Dispe
which
our
draw
with
confi
men,
ners,
by hi
to be
hands
ample
stance
ty.
I had
part o

Usage. I was very impatient for an opportunity of sending to *Dorothea*, and at last Fortune, who was sometimes my Friend, as well as enemy, furnish'd me with one; for one Night, towards the middle of it, when we were least provided, and least expected it, we were surpriz'd by a Sally from the Garrison, and had a very hot Dispute till almost Morning, in which we got the better, and found our Enemies beginning to withdraw; we pursued them as far as with safety we could, and made a considerable slaughter among their men, beside a good many Prisoners, and among the rest one, who by his Garb and Manners, seem'd to be of Note; he fell into my hands, and by the Governor's example (when I was in his Circumstance) I us'd him with all Civility. I was much rejoic'd, to find I had a prospect of sending some part of my thoughts to *Dorothea*.

and I ask'd several Questions about the Governor's Family, for which I express'd the greatest Esteem. He knew not much of the Ladies, nor could give no account of them ; but the Governor himself, *said he*, is well. This gave me no great Satisfaction, for I would rather have heard from his Niece once than twice from him : But the next day, according to my wish, the Prisoner began to make Proposals for his Liberty, and offer'd a handsome Sum to procure it, beside several Presents of considerable Value, which few Men would have carried about them at such a time. I refus'd all his Gifts, but told him, if he would undertake a small piece of Service for me in the Town, I would take care to have him sent thither : He told me, if it were any thing that might be done without a breach of Honour, he would give me his Word for a performance. Sir, said I,

I fco
a v
ques
to co
of a
curit
see i
but
mise
cause
confe
a Ge
you v
mem
Lette
ment
mise
writ

D
dest, (
live, I
under
self sec
meeting
portuni

I scorn to employ a Gentleman in a villainous Business, all the Request I have to make to you is, to convey a Letter to the hands of a fair Lady, which, for the security of your Honour, you shall see is no more than a little Love, but you must give me your Promise to deliver it as directed, because a Discovery may be of ill consequence to her: You look like a Gentleman, and if you are one you will keep your Word, and remember, that the Delivery of this Letter is the price of your Enlargement. He gave me his faithful Promise to be very secret, and then I writ what follows:

D*id I not know my self to be blest with the Love of the dearest, kindest, (but above all) the truest Mistress alive, I should want strength to support me under this cruel Separation, but I know my self secure, and hope ere long for a happy meeting. I have long wish'd for an Opportunity, to tell you how much I have*

*curf'd that Fate which drove me from
your arms. Oh! why must Gates and
Walls, and different Interests part us?
Or, why was Fortune, so cruelly kind, to
deliver me out of that Bondage, which
was by your Love, made so pleasant and
delightful to me? But I ought not to re-
pine at what is past, but rather animate
and stir up my self to new Courage, that
I may force a way through the Swords of
my Enemies to the Arms of my Love.
One Month more will, I hope, compleat
our Work, then, as Dorothea is, so shall
she find in me, the most sincere, and faith-
ful Lover.*

This was the substance of what
I writ, and, according to my pro-
mise, I first show'd it to the Bear-
er, and then seal'd it, and gave it
him: He made me all the Pro-
testations in the World of his care
and secrecy, and then I took care
to have him sent back to the
Town. I know not what follow'd
on that side afterwards; but cer-
tain it is, that I was the joyfullest
Man alive, to think how Fate had
given

given
bless
fair O
I trou
recital
but m
you,
can, t
of so
new r
after
loss,
made
they
dred.
of Pl
in pa
the p
but a
great
cager
Dove
of th
been
But v
of he

given me one lucky Minute to
 bless my hopes, and make the
 fair One glad. But why should
 I trouble you any longer with a
 recital, of what concerns no body
 but my self, I will therefore tell
 you, with as much brevity as I
 can, that our Men grew impatient
 of so tedious a Work, and with
 new resolution set to it again, and
 after much fatigue, hazard and
 loss, in the Attempt, we at last
 made a Breach in their Wall, and
 they Capitulated and Surren-
 dred. This brought a great deal
 of Pleasure to us all, but to me
 in particular, who had not only
 the publick reason for rejoicing,
 but a private one of my own of
 greater moment. I flew with
 eager hast to see my mourning
 Dove, and lost not one moment
 of that time, which I had so long
 been wishing for, as well as she.
 But when I came within the reach
 of her keen Eyes, I found their

Looks but too much alter'd; she receiv'd me with a very different Ayr from what I expected, and tho' I was all fire and Flame, yet was she as cold and frozen as a North Wind.

This I own surprized me very much, for I thought it impossible for so fair an Out-side, to be a case for so much Falseness, Perjury and Ingratitude, nor could I think, or persuade my self to believe, that she had any other Design in what she did, than to try how much I could bear: However, she persisted in her indifference, and I began to think if it were not real, it was high time to end the Jest, which to me seem'd very dull, and therefore in these words accosted her. *I fear, Madam, said I, I have but too many reasons to fear your Mind is as much alter'd as your Looks, tho' I would fain flatter my self with hopes to the contrary, and am inclining to believe it impossible* for

for yo
which
and c
and
been

than t
Prom
and t
said f

He
Mul
Abse
So

Be

ty we
can fo
the be

Ma

your S
able t
unthin
of his
self th
have n
thea
spight

for you to break those solemn Vows,
which you call'd the Gods to witness
and confirm. At this she laugh'd,
and told me, she thought I had
been a Man of more Breeding,
than to expect a Lady to keep a
Promise of two Months standing,
and to an absent Lover too; for,
said she,

He that will not be forgot,
Must be always on the spot;
Absent Friendship won't keep hot,
So says ancient *Aristot.*

Beside, Sir, said she, you are pret-
ty well used to Uncertainties, and
can for that reason, no doubt, submit
the better to a Disappointment now.

Madam, said I, tho' you express
your Self in Words, and with a Look
able to persuade a timorous, and an
unthinking Lover, into a certainty
of his Fate, yet will not I believe my
self that Wretch, that you would
have me, but will still think of Doro-
thea as she deserves, and will, in
spight of all your Fiend-Indifference,
I believe

believe my self still happy in your Love. Well, then, said she, since your Opinion of me is so good, meet me in the Evening at the great Cathedral Church, and there will I put an end to all your Expectations. I who thought nothing surer, than that I was within some Hours of being the happiest Man alive, ran to her with the greatest Transport, and taking her in my Arms, told her she had made choice of the surest, tho' the unkindest, ways to double my Joys. She told me, she had not much time to spare, and therefore desired me to forbear Caresses till I had a better Authority for it, and so left me. I waited with the greatest impatience for the approaching Hour, and thought the Minutes never went so slowly on before. At last it came, and then with Joy and haste I ran to find my Blessing.

I saw the glorious, cruel, false Dorothea, at a distance, who came

to me
me lo
idle D
cause
all p
Priest
Hand
thea's
had b
den sh
ther i
knew
whom
Estate
and h
fession
(from
(I we
priz'o
the T
rende
were
ty of
prete
this f
all m

to meet me, and said, she thought me long. I was asham'd of my idle Delay, that gave her so much cause to reproach me, and made all possible speed towards the Priest, who waited to join our Hands. I put my self by *Dorothea's* side, because I thought it had been my place, but of a sudden she put me by, and drew another into my Room, whom I at last knew to be the happy Man by whom I had sent my Letter: His Estate prevail'd against my Person, and he (then and there) took possession of what should have been (from a thousand Promises) mine. (I would not have the Reader surpriz'd at this Proceeding, because the Town was not taken but surrender'd, and their Conditions were such, as gave them the Liberty of their Churches.) I will not pretend to describe the just Rage, this sight inspir'd me with, to see all my Expectations blasted in a moment,

ment, to see my self stand by
 neglected, scorn'd and laugh'd at,
 while she, of whom I thought my
 self so secure, gave her self away be-
 fore my Face to another. I knew
 not which way to revenge my self,
 nor on whom, *Dorothea*, who was
 the chief Aggressor, was yet a Wo-
 man, and consequently not a fit
 Mark for it. Her Husband was
 the only Person on whom it could
 fall, and him I considered first as
 her Husband, next as an Enemy,
 from whom I had no reason to ex-
 pect any thing contrary to his own
 Interest; and in the third place, I
 knew it was present Death to
 draw a Sword in the Church; tho'
 none of those Reasons would have
 prevail'd with me, had not another
 Consideration stop'd my Hand,
 which was, that a Woman that
 could make such Vows, and con-
 firm them with such solemn Oaths,
 and in a few Weeks forget and
 break them, and make a Jest of it
 when

when she had done; such a Woman, I say, was not worth the least hazzard I could run for her, and therefore I immediately left the Church and Town, threw up my Commission, quitted the Army, and came back again to *England*, where I have ever since lived a private Life, upon a small Allowance from an angry Father. And this is the true Character of the only Woman, I ever did, or ever will Love.

Thus this poor Gentleman ended his Story, which gave the Company as much Diversion as Concern. One Lady among the rest, seem'd to be more than ordinary attentive, and as soon as he had done, she got up and went out.

I turn'd to one that sat by me, knowing I might have Intelligence, and ask'd her, Who she was? And whether she could speak, or no? *Because*, said I, *I do not remember, that she once open'd her Mouth since I came*

came into the House: Yes, said she, laughing, she can speak, but she seldom does, and this Gentleman's Story has touch'd her to the quick: For you are to know, that she has lately had a very scurvy Trick play'd her, not very unlike his. Preethy, said I, if there be any Jest in it, let's hear it. Ay, said she, with all my Heart, but I am afraid, Supper will interrupt us; however, I'll make it as short as I can.

This Lady, you are to know, lived long enough in the World to gain her self the Title of an old Maid, and Husbands happening to be very scarce in that part of the World where she then liv'd, it was much to be fear'd that Necessity would oblige her to a Continuation, in that much to be pittied-Condition some time longer. However, tho' she had been long reduced to her last Prayers, yet Fortune had not quite forgot her, but once in her Life, and at long-run, she

she had a Husband offer'd her,
 which, according to the old Cu-
 stom, (of old Maids, I mean) she
 most readily, and with all her
 Heart accepted of. The Gentle-
 man came, and was well received
 by the Lady, and her Friends, and
 was as well pleas'd himself with
 what he was about to do. In a
 little time they concluded upon the
 Matter, and were to be Married
 without delay, but she, poor Soul,
 was so transported at the Thoughts
 of a Husband, that she could not
 forbear expressing her Content,
 in a Letter to a Cousin she had in
Shropshire, and mightily impor-
 tunes her to come and give her
 Opinion of the Spark; tho' it is
 not to be supposed that any thing
 would have had power enough,
 to persuade one from Matrimony,
 who had, for so many Years past,
 been praying for an Invitation to
 it. The Cousin writ to her again,
 and wished her much Joy, and
 advised

advised her to be expeditious, since Delays in Love were dangerous; but with all sent her word, that she had, for some time, been very ill, and was but lately recover'd, and that the Weather was very unfit for Travelling, and the days short and cold, and therefore desired, by all means, to be excused. This return our Bride resents, and immediately sends to her again to let her know how ill she should take it, if she refused her Company at such a time, and that she was resolv'd not to Marry till she came, and therefore earnestly begg'd her to come with the Messenger. At last importunity prevails upon this good humour'd Lady, and with some danger to her health she comes: The Lover she views, and likes him very well; and as the old Gentleman in Black, and ill Luck, would have it, he falls so Heartily in Love with

her,
 but you down and follow her,
 follow

er, that in a few days he made an exchange, and took a young handsome Lady (tho' no Fortune) for the ugly old one, whom he left to bewail (not the loss of her Virginity) but the preservation of it. This made a great noise in the Country, and every unmannerly body made bold to make a Jest on't, insomuch that it became the Table-talk of every Plow-man round about. This gave the Lady so much uneasiness, that she was forc'd to leave that part of the Country, and fly higher for a little rest, tho' she had not been here long, before that Spightful Whore, *Fame*, brought the Story after her, and it is now as well known here as it was there, for which reason, I suppose, she will make no very long stay, but e'en return to the place from whence she came.

Alas, poor Lady, said I, in my mind, she deserves the greatest pity.
She

She wish'd and waited for a loving Swain,
 And thought herself forgot, at last he came;
 And would have staid, contented with his Fate
 But she provides for him another Mate;
 Spoil'd her own Jest; and now, I am afraid
 She must content herself; to *Live and Dye a Maid*

By this time Supper appear'd,
 and put an end to the Labour of
 the Tongue, to make way for that
 of the Teeth, and when we had
 jaded our Jaws, we fell to our
 Lip-Labour again, and began up-
 on the same Subject, the Lady be-
 ing absent, and every body was as
 witty upon her Misfortune, as
 they thought fit. Poor Lady,
 said I, she had as ill Luck with
 her only Lover, as Mr. *Antrobus*
 had with his Ale; he had, for
 some Years (finding Things very
 low with him) been persuading
 his Wife to sell Ale, but could ne-
 ver bring her to it: At last, he
 teized her so about it, that she
 was resolved to try what was to
 be done, and in order thereto, she
 sets about a Brewing, which was
 to

to be more than ordinary good,
 because it was against a Fair, well
 knowing, that if she were famous
 at first setting up, it would be
 the only means to force a Trade.
 she therefore took care to have
 her Drink good, her House clean,
 and her self in the best Order, not
 forgetting to dish up her Daugh-
 ter to the best advantage: And
 when the Day came, the Ale was
 roach'd, the Pots wash'd, and a
 good Fire made for the Guests,
 but the Fair fill'd much sooner than
 Antrobus his House, and it was
 high Noon, before any body came:
 at last, by good Luck, two Men
 came in, and sat them down by
 the Fire, and call'd each of them
 for a single Pot of Ale, but before
 they had drank it, some Dispute
 arose, which ended in a Quarrel,
 and they threw the Pots at one a-
 nothers Heads, and got up in a
 fury to Box it out, and so walk'd
 off without paying for either Pots
 or

or Drink; and those, tho' they were very bad, yet they were the best, and all the Guests they had all Day; so that this Man was long bringing his Wife to sell. As the Lady was getting a Lover and they turn'd pretty much to the same Account at last.

Madam, said a Gentleman in the Company, you have brought in this Story as the Parson did Sampson, pray, Sir, said I, how was that? Why, Head and Shoulders, said he, for I find not any Connexion or similitude, that is at all a-propo, betwixt yours, and the last that was told. I hope, Sir, said I, you don't think I could be guilty of so much absurdity, to tire the Company with the same Thing over again: No, my Business is to divert the Subject; and bring in something novel. But it may be your Brains are foul (if you have any) and can't digest variety; if so, you would do well

withdraw, and make room for
 those that are better provided
 with a sound Understanding, or
 perhaps you had some very witty
 thing, ready to broach, and I
 balk'd you so long that you have
 forgot it: If that be your Case, I
 don't wonder you are angry, for
 I am to think such Accidents hap-
 pen to you but seldom. Well,
 Madam, said he, tho' I am not
 witty, I would be thought wise,
 and to deserve that Character, I
 must not hold an angry Dialogue
 with you any longer, but will ra-
 ther confess my Fault, and beg
 your Pardon. If you desire my
 Pardon, said I, you shall have it,
 and with it a little Advice; if
 you have a mind to keep your
 self in a whole Skin, never strive
 to put a Woman out of Conceit
 with her own Talk, for we natu-
 rally believe, and think well of what
 we say our selves, and no Body
 appears more our Enemy, than
 those

those that make it their business
to convince us to the contrary.
By this time every body had talk'd
out their Stage, and late hours bid
us think of going home ; we there-
fore call'd for our Horses, and every
body went to their own Houses.
About three or four days after
I heard my self enquired for, and
going down to see what goodly
Visitor I had got, I met with an
old Woman, who had gotten a
Letter for me, and as soon as she
had deliver'd it she went away ;
I found by the Subscription, that
I was a stranger to the Hand, tho'
when I had open'd it, I was more
at a loss to know the Author ;
but tho' I did not know him per-
haps the Reader may, and there-
fore he shall have the Letter at
large.

Madam,

THo' I have no great reason to
appear your Friend, yet out

of pure Charity, and pitty to you, I
 find my self willing to give you my
 advice. Your Head seems a little
 disorder'd, and therefore I would
 have you (for your own good) sleep
 more, and talk less: I find your
 Wits bubble up so fast, that I am
 affraid they will boyl over, and then
 all the Fat will be in the Fire, and
 you will lose part of the Scum and
 Froth, which makes you so very pert:
 Your Counterpart Mrs. Johnson met
 with a Reward for her Wit last
 night; for, pretending to be smart
 upon Mrs. Gillford, she threw a Glass
 of Wine in her face, so that one may
 see the visible Marks of her Wit in
 her Cloaths. You are both resolv'd
 to make your selves remarkable for
 something, tho' my concern for her is
 not great, but your Affection gives
 me the Spleen, and the whole Coun-
 try takes notice of your Pride, with
 how much insolence you usurp a Supe-
 riority over those that know how to
 talk, and behave themselves as much

to advantage as you do: If you can find in your Heart to part with your Darling Follies, perhaps you may purchase my Esteem: If not, you must expect nothing more, than barely the pity of your plain-dealing Friend

A B C D E

This was the whole Substance of the Letter, and the Person that writ it had taken so much liberty, that I was very eager to find him out; in order to which, I sent for the old Woman that had brought me this piece of Civility, and tho' I used all my Art to bring her to a Discovery, yet the old Jade's resolutions were as tough as her Hide, and she left me as ignorant as she found me. At last I prevail'd with her to carry an Answer to it, tho' she would not do me the favour to let me know, to whom I was obliged for all the care that was taken of me, and then I went up to my Chamber, and when I had invoked

spight

spight,

I answer

Good

I She my

sending

rer, for

been at

because,

your se

study a

the loss

serv'd-t

fects of

But I s

too frequ

cause you

le's, as F

are the

to make

you to

may chan

or it may

if you sh

than your

attle.

spight, to come to my assistance,
I answer'd his impertinence thus :

Good Mr. Alphabet,

I Should never forgive my self for
my Ingratitude, should I omit
sending you my Thanks by the Bea-
rer, for all the care and cost you have
been at for my advantage. I say Cost,
because, without doubt, you have put
your self to the expence of much
study and labour, and no less than
the loss of a whole night's rest has
serv'd to produce such wonderful Ef-
fects of your Pitty and Charity.
But I fear your converse is a little
too frequent with the Cook-maid, be-
cause you bring in such greasy Simi-
le's, as Fat, Scum and Froth, which
are the Ingredients, I find, that go
to make Folks pert, I would have
you to preserve the Receipt, you
may chance to get something by it,
or it may be serviceable to your self,
if you should chance to grow duller
than you are, which would be a Mi-
serable.

K

Tou

Tou say, the visible Effects of Mrs. Johnson's Wit, are to be seen in her Cloaths. I vow that's strange, that visible things should be seen; and yet it would have been stranger, if some invisible thing should have appear'd to you. But I fancy you inveigh against Wit, for the same reason that the Mob rail at Grandure, and fine Cloaths, because they are out of their reach; but I shall go on, till I am as impertinent as your self, which is what I would willingly avoid; therefore, if you have not Answer enough to your Letter, be pleas'd to borrow a Bible, and read the finishing stroke, in the 26th. Chapters of the Proverbs, and the 4th. Verse. So good Mr. Alphabet,

Adieu.

When I had made an end of this spiteful Epistle I carried it down to the old Hobling Trot, who with much ado, was persuaded to stay for it, and gave it to her, with a Charge, to deliver it that Night;
she

she said
very M
ing to
ly disp
her, w
saw h
means
be the
Days
House
match
that w
had m
osity h
for a I
Relatio
cause I
someth
ordinar
this Le
him fr
He w
test Va
for him
to be a
though

she said she would go with it that very Minute, which was according to my Wish, for I immediately dispatch'd away a Fellow to dog her, who kept at a distance till he saw her Hous'd, and by that means, I found my Antagonist to be the very Man who had some Days before at a Neighbour's House given me a Rebuke, for not matching my Story well with one that went before it. But tho' I had made a Discovery, my Curiosity had like to have cost me dear, for a Day, or two, after, I had a Relation came to see me, and because I would entertain him with something that might be more than ordinary diverting, I shew'd him this Letter, and unadvisedly told him from whom it came.

He was one that had the greatest Value for me, and my Esteem for him was no less. He happen'd to be a rash, hot, young Man, and thought it a Fault, to let such Im-

pu-
dence go unchastiz'd; and there-
fore, the next Morning before I
was up, he goes to the Gentle-
man's House, and with a fury
greater than the Provocation de-
serv'd, he demanded Satisfaction
of him.

The other, who was surprized
at his Errand, and heartily vex'd at
the scurvy Language he gave him,
without any farther Parly, lets
loose a huge Mastive Dog upon
him, who without Compliment,
took him by the Arm, and shak'd
him soundly, insomuch, that he
spoil'd not only his tilting then,
but put him into a Fevour, and had
like to have cost him his Life:
This, I must own, rais'd new In-
dignation in me, and I could not
forbear sending my Resentments,
in such a Message, as in spite of
all his Manhood, made him look
pale, (though without doubt, it
was with Anger) however, when
his Stomach was a little down, he
came,

came
Conc
and l
of Re
depr
And,
own,
from
I had
vokin
you k
Lette
which
son,
you di
I must
by the
withou
faction
you to
own H
I, for
his De
Misfor
Trouble
touch

came, and express'd a very great Concern for what had happen'd, and laid the Fault upon his want of Reason, which his Passion had deprived him off at that time.

And, Madam, said he, you can't but own, that so many angry Menaces from a Man I knew not, and to whom I had given no just Cause, was provoking to the last degree. I find you know me to be the Author of a Letter, sent you some time since, which I only intended for your Diversion, but by your Answer to it, I find you did not take it as I design'd it; I must needs say, I thought you had, by that sufficiently reveng'd your self, without seeking for any other Satisfaction; and therefore did not expect you to send one to surprize me in my own House. Neither, did I, Sir, said I, for had I known the least part of his Design, I had prevented him the Misfortune he met with, and you the Trouble of the Visit, since nothing can touch me nearer, than the thoughts

of being the unhappy Occasion of so much Mischief. Well, Madam, said he, there is no recalling Yesterday, and since I cannot undo, what my want of Thought has done; first give me your own Pardon, and then conduct me to the sick Gentleman, that I may, if possible, make my Peace with him likewise.

You have given me so many good Words, said I, that I can consent to any reasonable Request you can make, and I'll trust to my Cousin's good Humour, and venture to carry you up to him, tho' he is but in an ill Case to receive you, either as a Friend, or an Enemy: He is, it is true, of a fiery hot Temper, but he is, with all, of a forgiving One, and for any Injury, has a Pardon ready for those that ask it. If that, said he, will do, it shall not be long before we are Friends. Come then, said I, let us go and try. I went up with my Nieghbour, and found my Cousin just gotten up, who turn'd
and

and I
saw v
sudden
you c
or you
play i
you d
No, s
Arm'
hear
Soluti
for w
ly wi
part
I co
mild
Cour
calm
Civi
wha
had
that
told
seen
him
whe

and look'd at us, and when he saw who we were, he got up of a sudden, and said to him; *Sir, do you come Arm'd with your Sword, or your Doz, if the latter, I shall play the Coward as much now, as you did before, and call for help.* No, Sir, said the other, *I come now Arm'd with nothing but Patience, to hear your just Reproaches, and Resolution, to beg ten thousand Pardons for what I have done; and I heartily wish, it were in my power to bear part of your pain, that you might see I could do, as well as say.* This mild Answer turn'd away all my Cousin's Wrath, and he became calm, and us'd him with as much Civility, as if he had prophesied what was to follow. After they had sat some time, Mr. *Wats*, (for that was my Neighbour's Name) told my Couz, he had either seen him, or some body very like him, before, tho' he neither knew when, nor where. I believe, said

my Cousin, it has rather been
 somebody like me, than my self,
 for I come from *Mansfield* in *Wilt-*
shire, which is a great way from
 this Place. *Mansfield*, said the o-
 ther, I had once a very fair pro-
 spect of being a happy Man, in the
 Arms of a Daughter of one Mr.
Elliott of that Town, but by the
 Perswasion of a Brother of hers,
 she left me to wear the Willow,
 and took another of his chu-
 sing. Pray, Sir, said I, how long
 is it since you were at *Mansfield*? I
 was there when she was married,
 and I don't remember that I saw
 you there; tho' I did hear, that
 one of your Name made Love to
 her, but I never saw him. It is,
 said he, almost five Years since,
 and I can assure you I came off not
 only a Pensive, but an expensive
 Lover. Well, said my Cousin *El-*
liot, it is ten to one but you will
 say that I have met with Ju-
 stice from your Hand, or rather
 from

from
 that
 stop to
 have
 repen
 took i
 of Hu
 of his
 fifteen
 Child
 good
 hinde
 have
 quenc
 Embe
 you
 no m
 if her
 you
 have
 your
 you,
 place
 Watt
 much
 main

from your Dog's Teeth; for I am that very Brother that put a full stop to your Amour, and, I confess, I have liv'd long enough after it to repent what I did: For he that she took in your Room, made the worst of Husbands, tho' she is now rid of him, for he has been dead these fifteen Months, and has left her one Child well provided for, and a good Joynter, which he could not hinder her from; so that if you have any of the old Fire yet unquench'd, you may blow up the Embers, and try, once more, what you can do, I promise you I will no more appear your Enemy; and if her Inclinations stand as fair for you now, as they did once, you have very good grounds to build your hopes upon; for I can assure you, I found some difficulty to displace you. *Why, truly, said Mr. Watts, I can't confess my self so much a fool, as to say, I have any remains of Love, after being despis'd*

for another ; but I have a Respect, a Value, and an Esteem, which, with a little Encouragement, would soon grow up into something very like it : And if you will give me leave to wait upon you Home, I will once more try her's and Fortune's kindness. Do, said he, and may Fortune favour you, but if you be as much alter'd in her Eye, as you are in mine, she will not readily believe you the same ; however, as soon as I am able to undertake such a Journey, we will go and see how good her Memory is. About a fortnight after, my Cousin grew pretty well, and then they went together, and I heard the Sister and he agreed as well at home, as the Brother and he had done abroad, (I mean after they were come to a right understanding of one another) ; and thus it was, that Good came out of Evil, and the Effects of an angry Letter, was a very happy Wedding. Soon after this, my fugitive Circumstances,

ces, which admitted of no Settlement, carried me from this place also. There was a young Lady in the Country, who (for reasons best known to her self) was always extreemly fond of me ; this Lady had an Aunt, who lived within ten Miles of her, not her own Aunt, but her Unckle's Widow : This Uncle would have done well for the Niece, if he might have had peace and quietness ; but his Wife, who had two Children of her own by a former Husband, was for ingrossing all to her self, that she might have a power to dispose of what there was, (which was very considerable) to her own Cubs, in case she out-lived her Husband, and at last betwixt wheadle and noise, she brought him to make a Will, after her own Heart, in which every body was excluded but her self. Some time after, the Husband dies, and then she had full possession of All. When this young
 Lady

Lady found that her Uncle had left her nothing, she immediately lays the saddle upon the right Horse, and looks with a great deal of Indifference upon her Aunt: However, time began to wear it off, and after several Invitations given by the old Lady, the young one at last Consents to go, but sends for me to go with her. I went with the Messenger, and lay with her that night, and the next Morning we set forward, and in that ten Miles riding we met with a Gentleman, between whom and my Friend was a very pleasant Dialogue, at least I thought it so, tho' I know not whether it will bear repetition; She was a very pretty witty Woman, and her greatest fault was being a little too frolicksome, tho' she always kept within Bounds, and was very modest; but this Gentleman came up close to us, and without more Ceremony, ask'd her, if she were

Mar-

Mar
conci
long
keep
I lik
Wha
think
am t
you
denc
ty.
plain
give
for
me,
tur
she,
you
Cau
ma
hav
wil
bei
cor
yo
yo
buc

Married? To which she very
 concisely answer'd, No. How
 long, said he, do you intend to
 keep so? Till I can meet with one
 I like, that will have me, said she.
 What think you of me? said he;
 think of you, said she? Why, if I
 am to be plain with you; I think
 you have as much Pride, as Impu-
 dence; and as little Wit, as Beau-
 ty. Faith, Madam, said he, that's
 plain, indeed; and without you
 give me some very good Reasons
 for your indifferent Opinion of
 me, I shall think you both ill-na-
 tur'd, and ill-manner'd. Ay, said
 she, but who's to be Judge? Not
 you, because it is in your own
 Cause, and those Reasons which I
 may think very good for what I
 have said, it is very likely you
 will not allow to be so; but your
 being angry at what I have said,
 confirms the Truth of it, and if
 you had not a large Share of Pride,
 you would not pretend to take
 it

it ill from me, since I only answer'd the Question you ask'd me, which was what I thought of you; and because I have spoke the truth, without Hypocrisy, you charge me with Ill-nature, and want of Manners.

Madam, said he, I should never have guess by your Face, that you were one of the last Age, yet sure, if you were not, you would know that nothing is a greater sign of mechanick Breeding, than speaking Truth, nor of ill Nature, than telling People of their Faults; besides, you charge me with Things that I am not guilty of, you should rather have blam'd me for too much Humility, than Pride; for offering my self to one, who perhaps, does not deserve me. There, said she, you are in the wrong; that is, indeed, a Sign of your Folly, but not of your Humility, for in all outward appearance, if one may guess by Looks
and

and I
well
but
Broth
pos'd
or t
confi
your
mak
and
will
if th
own
and
Lad
ny t
Usa
Con
thra
ney
the
is g
such
you
ly,
be
I m

and Dress, I certainly deserve as well as you, and it's ten to one, but that you are some younger Brother, whose Patrimony is dispos'd of at the Groom-Porter's, or the Tavern, or both, and you consider, that you may mend your Fortune, but you can't make it worse; so its hit or miss, and you'll en'e take the first that will have you at a venture. Come, if that be your Case, be free, and own it; I'll be your Confident, and help you to a superannuated Lady that has a great deal of Money to give, for a great deal of Ill-Usage, where you may have her Company, and the pleasure of thrashing her, as long as her Money last, and of leaving her up the Parish when it is gone. This is generally the deserved Luck of such Fools, and I dare swear, if you would speak your mind freely, it is the very Thing you would be at. Hold, Madam, said he, I must interrupt you, or you will

run on so long, that I shall forget where to begin an Answer, and I can't but reflect upon the natural Propensity we all have, to find fault with other People, tho' we our selves are at the same time guilty of the same Fault; it is not a quarter of an hour since you revild me for my Pride, and in three Minutes after you tell me you deserve as well as I; now if you can clear your self of Pride in that Expression, I'll submit to the rest of your Censure, and go along with you to see the old Lady you told me of. Sir, said she, I could very easily clear my self of Pride in every Thing I have said, and there is a modest Esteem of our selves allow'd us, especially when our Worth is call'd in Question. But it is not my Business to disclaim my Pride, but rather to justify it, since a Woman without it looks as like a Fool, as a Man with it; you will, I hope, allow, that there

are

are sev
in you
ready
Coxco
ing in
and hi
fits, I
upon
ing;
as rec
every
ing Po
and a
ing T
pers.
son m
same
stifiab
twixt
Mada
I find
bette
shoul
subm
must
have

are several Things which are Faults in you, that are none in us? How ready are we to say that Man's a Coxcomb, that spends his Morning in Dress, at a Looking-glass, and his Afternoons in making Visits, Drinking Tea, and criticizing upon the Nicety of good Breeding; and it would be every whit as ridiculous for us Women to be every Day at a Coffee-house, talking Politicks, and reading Gazetts, and at Night at a Tavern, smoaking Tobacco, and drinking Bumpers. So that you see one Person may be condemn'd for the same Action that may be very justifiable in another, especially betwixt your Sex, and ours. Well, Madam, said the civil Gentleman, I find you are resolv'd to have the better of me, and it is fit you should; I therefore most humbly submit, and should leave ye, but I must first try to persuade you to have a better Opinion of me, and

no

no longer to believe me a younger Brother, who would gladly sell my Peace, my Quiet, my Happiness, nay, and my Heaven to, for Gain; therefore tell me no more of what is naucious to my thoughts, but use your interest with one, for whom I have the greatest Esteem. Now, said she, should I ask you, Who that is, but to let you see how quick my Apprehension is, and how willing I am to save you the labour of telling, I will, without more ado, suppose it my self, and you shall have my Answer at our next meeting; for I don't believe you are in hast, and I am at my Journey's end. No, Madam, said he, I am in no great hast, but I suppose you will, when I have told you my design, which is to go in with you, and stay till you have time to determine. I told you at first, said she, that you were a Man of good Assurance. And I find you are resolved

ved t
nion;
are as
thing
while
Jest
Conv
you,
Hou
with
you e
Confo
bomin
prefix
times
till yo
you r
chise
and E
Revel
night
your
Minut
you m
nor S
Clock

ved to confirm me in that Opi-
 nion; tho' I must needs say, you
 are as agreeably impudent, as any
 thing I have met with a great
 while, and have carried on your
 Jest as well. But by the little
 Conversation I have had with
 you, I fancy the Order of this
 House will not very well agree
 with your Constitution; for if
 you enter these Gates, you must
 Conform (tho' that word be a-
 bominable) to the Rules within
 prefix'd; you must Pray three
 times a day, you must sing Psalms
 till you are black in the face, and
 you must get the *Assemblies Cate-
 chise* by heart; you must Read,
 and Expound a Chapter out of the
Revelations, to the Family, every
 night after Supper; you must, in
 your turn, say a Grace of fifteen
 Minutes long, at the end of which,
 you must Pray, for neither Church
 nor State; as soon as ever the
 Clock strikes *Nine*, you must start
 fair

fair, with the rest of your Company, to Bed, and you must be up, and dress'd, by *Seven*, or else you will lose your Breakfast: And now, come if you dare. Truly, Madam, said our Up-start Acquaintance, the Conditions are, as you say, very hard, and not at all agreeable; but he's a Coward-Knight that dares not run thro' a few Difficulties to purchase the Company of a fair Lady, he likes: Beside, Madam, said he, for the little time I have had the Honour of your Company, perhaps, I have inspected as nearly into your Constitution as you have done into mine, and don't find any great reason to believe that this kind of Life will be your choice long, and it is very hard, if I can't bear as much as you; therefore promise to encourage me, as an Acquaintance, and I will certainly go with you, and we will do Penance together. Hold, said she, you

know

know
go wit
nance
already
Love t
Woma
do th
and p
you w
a great
Oblig
desire
leman
do an
with y
me. I
a Froh
should
bones
Cudge
nd fa
ool, t
No Sir
ut yo
nd if
ou m

know not the worse yet, if you go with me, you must do Penitance indeed; for, beside what I already told you, you must make Love to a very ugly (tho' young Woman, and if you can but out-do them at their own Weapon, and play the Hypocrite heartily, you will make your self and me a great deal of Sport, and place an Obligation where you seem to desire it. Madam, said the Gentleman, you find I am willing to do any thing, rather than part with you, and you impose upon me. I am as seldom backward at a Frolick as any body; but if I should undertake this, and get my Bones broke with a Sanctified Cudgel, you'd only laugh at me, and say, Why, were you such a Fool, to be advis'd by a Stranger? No Sir, said she, that would be base; put your self into my protection, and if you go sound in, I'll give you my Word and Honour you shall

shall come so out again, Wind and Limb. Well, Madam, said he, to let you see, how great my Opinion of you is, I will go, let what will be the event, and you shall Command me as you please. You shall never have cause to repent the Trust you have put in me, said she, but now we are just at the Door, Pray, What am I to call you? Why, said he, I find they are an holy People, and I think it will not be amiss to suit the Name accordingly, if you please, you may call me *Good*; that, said she, will do; and now Mr. *Good*, you and I are no longer to appear as Strangers to each other; come light, and take me down.

Here the old Lady appear'd, (who was the very picture of Hypocrisy) and with an holy Accent, bids us Welcome; the Daughter also came out in her Night-Geer, which added much to the luster of her Face, a Description of

which

which may not be unnecessary ;
 it was precisely of the shape of a
 Half-Moon, with a Forehead bul-
 ging out, and a long Chin turn-
 ing up to meet it ; she had little
 pretty white Eyes, with lovely
 frouzer Black Hair, and her Face
 was full of black-headed Worms,
 which passed sometimes for small
 Patches, to the great Mortification
 of her Mother, who had such an ab-
 horrence for the Spots of the Whore
 of *Babylon*, that it would have plea-
 sed her much more to have had 'em
 pals'd for what they really were,
 then for what they did. But tho'
 her Face was, as I have described
 it, yet her Humour was ten times
 more to be despiz'd, insomuch that
 if it were possible for any body
 to be worse than the worst, she
 had certainly found out the Receipt ;
 she had a little unbred Wit, which
 naturally run it self into Satyr,
 and that made her still more intol-
 erable to be born. This was the
 lovely

lovely Object which she had prepar'd for the unknown Attendant, but were I to live out the Days of old *Parr*, I should still retain in my Memory, the Looks of the Gentleman at the sight of the Lady, to whom he was to address himself, and I heartily wish, for the Reader's sake, that my Pen were a Pencil, that I might draw a lively Resemblance of his Face. For had he been the Philosopher's Object, instead of the Afs, and the Thistles, he would have made the same comical Impression upon his Mind, and would have provok'd him to Laughter as much; for my part my Countenance was past my command, and I was forced, in spite of my teeth, to shew I was risible. I cough'd, blow'd my Nose, bit my Lips, and did a hundred unnecessary things, to keep myself within bounds, tho' to no purpose. The old Lady desired us to walk into the Parlor, and then

then u
degre
that v
very r
had a
to pr
most
Chara
any bo
mind
thro' t
hood,
fer. H
presen
jest of
mighti
ty, a ve
an ill ch
he und
he gene
sometim
could no
pose, an
broken
mong th
Wit, an
his Neck
true Buff
olute Be
with as
face of a
d lookin
orce the
oth as ft.

then the Son appear'd, who was just one
 degree handsomer than the Daughter, and
 that was all; as for his Temper, it was the
 very reverse of what it seem'd to be; he
 had a plausible Insinuating wheedling way,
 to procure himself the good Opinion of
 most Folks, and by that means gain'd the
 Character of a good humour'd Man, tho'
 any body that had but half an Eye, and a
 mind to find him out, might have seen
 thro' the Mask a great deal of secret False-
 hood, and Pride to a degree above *Luci-
 fer*. He always faun'd upon you, when
 present, and as well as he could, made a
 jest of you behind your back. He set up
 mightily for a Wit, tho' he was, in reali-
 ty, a very shallow Fellow, and by reading
 an ill chosen Book now and then, of which
 he understood nothing, and over which
 he generally fell asleep, he would pretend
 sometimes to quote an Author, tho' he
 could never make any thing out to the pur-
 pose, and a hard Word misplaced, or a
 broken Sentence ill apply'd, pass'd a-
 mong the Company he kept for profound
 Wit, and unanswerable Arguments; tho'
 his Neck, Face and Hands, were of a
 ruddy Buff, yet did he fancy himself an ab-
 solute Beauty, and would stand at the Glass,
 with as much pleasure, as if he had the
 face of a Cherubim; he mightily affect-
 ed looking red, and would (in order to
 force the Blood into his Face) tie his Neck-
 cloth as strait, as if he were striving by de-

greets to bring himself to be Halter Proof; he would often pretend to oblige us with a Song, tho' he had a Voice like the drone of a Bag pipe, and nothing but the Howl of a Dog, or the Musick of a Catterwauling Cat, could be more disagreeable; yet, in his own Conceit, every thing he did was perform'd to a Miracle, tho' the unkind World would allow nothing of it, so that he was forced to be a true Lover of himself, without any Rival. Yet this poor worthless Animal that had not one true deserving Quality belonging to the whole fabrick, did, notwithstanding expect a Woman with double his own Fortune, nay, and she must be handsome too, for fear, I suppose, of spoiling the Breed.

I come next to the Mother of those two rareties, who was one of the Godliest, Beautifullest, Praying, Imperious, Religious, Backbiting, old Women, I had ever seen. She constantly pray'd three times a Day with a laudable Voice, and all the rest of her time was spent in abusing her Neighbours, and bragging of her Family, the top of which was a Brother, who had Gam'd so long till he had gotten Money enough to keep a Coach, which had rais'd her to such a pitch of Pride, that she thought no Woman good enough for her Son, or Man for her Daughter.

By this time our new acquaintance Mr. Good turn'd to this good Lady, who stood rocking like an old House in a High Wind, and made the following Speech. Ma-

Ma
for m
the m
but, I
I give
whol
and I
my C
desig
old P
very
of wh
for a
tlema
Grav
after
I kne
her I
becau
her N
ther f
upon
would
ter; u
calls o
so we
grand
make
were
that h
and on
test E
one of
only re

Madam, said he, I ought to Apologize for my Intrusion into your House, having the misfortune of being a Stranger to you ; but, Madam, you must place the trouble I give you, to your Niece's Account, by whole permission and invitation I am come, and I hope my Suit will not be denied, nor my Offers rejected, when I have made my design known to you. This puzzel'd the old Fanatick wonderfully, and she was very much at a loss to know the meaning of what he had said : She call'd, however, for a Bottle of Sack, to drink to the Gentleman, and then, with a Presbyterian Gravity, walk'd out and beckon'd me after her, to give her Information of one, I knew just nothing of my self. I told her I could give no great Account of him, because he was not my Acquaintance, but her Niece's, but that by what I could gather from their Discourses, his Design was upon her Daughter ; however, said I, you would do well to ask her that knows better ; upon which she goes to the Door and calls out her Niece, who had laid her Story so well together, that all she said pass'd for grand Truths, till time took upon him to make discoveries, and let them see they were all grand Lies. She told her Aunt, that he was a Man of a very good Estate, and one that from hear say, had the greatest Esteem for her Daughter, and he is one of your one Persuasion, which is the only reason why I have refused him my

L 2

self,

self, said she; could I have prevail'd with him to have quitted his Religion, I should not have made many words with him, but I found he was fonder of that, than of me, and therefore I gave out, tho' I believe he will make an extraordinary Husband, and therefore I would not have you stand in your own light, but Marry her while you can.

Ay, ay, said She, but how am I to know whether he be a Man in good Circumstances, or no; don't you think that I will part with my *Naney*, unless upon sure grounds. Well, said she, I did not know but that you would have taken my Word for an old Acquaintance, but if you will not, you may make Inquiry when you please, he dares stand it. Alas, Cousin, said the old Hipocrite, I don't think you would do any thing that is ill; but you may be mistaken as well as I, and if he should make an ill Husband it would break my heart. I dare be his security, said she, that he will never make her an ill Husband, and you may depend upon it. But I'll go, said she, and stay with them till they are a little better acquainted, and leave you to give Order for Supper. Thus did she leave this canting Soul to chew the Cud by her self, and return'd to the loving Pair she had left behind her in the Parlor, who were set as close as a Nun and her Confessor. When the Cousin saw my Friend come in she got up, and went for a little Intelligence to her Mother, and as soon as she was gone Mr. *Good* and she began to compare notes, and found that the Mother and the Daughter were both managed according to our own wishes. But, Madam, said Mr. *Good*, methinks you only imploy me in a pretended Amour, to divert me if you can from a real one, and while I go about your

Affair,

Affair
gain'
given
purp
you

Li
boes,
does
Com
ing t
dition

He
throt
as if
all b
ter h
enter
Crick
told u
sin D
to ste
Belly
in my
callin
a Blu
them
said n
happi
fair L
Gentl
minu
with l
Mada
has m
Charit
you m
much
siness

Affair, I lose time in my own. No, said she, you gain'd time, and nothing but this could have given you any hopes : But this is not to the purpose, you are not now to tell me how you like me, but how you like the Lady.

Like her, said he, as a Seaman does the Bill-boes, or a Soldier a Whipping-Post, as a Scot does his own Country, or a Presbyterian a Common-Prayer Book. In short, if I were going to be hang'd, I would not change my condition for that of her Husband.

Hold, said she, here comes the Brother, half throttled in his own Crevat, and his Face looks as if he had been at Cuffs with his Neighbours, all black and blue ; prithee, help me to banter him into a convulsion Fit. By this time he enter'd, and with a Bow, as if he had gotten a Crick in his Back, he advanced towards us, and told us, it was past Seven-a-Clock. Good Cousin *Dicky*, said she, will you do me the favour to step out and tell your Mother so, for my Belly begins to cry Cubboard, and pray send in my Cousin *Nany* again ; but while she was calling for her, she appear'd, poor Soul, with a Blush, and a guilty Look, that plainly told them what her Instructions had been. Now, said my Friend to Mr. *Good*, are you to be the happiest Man alive, in the good Wishes of that fair Lady : Come, Cousin, said she, here is a Gentleman has look'd upon his Watch every minute since you went, and has deafen'd me with his Importunities to call you back. Ay, Madam, said he, I must own my Impatience has made me very rude, and if you have any Charity for this Lady, or value for her Quiet, you must not, by your absence, give me so much cause to be troublesome ; my whole business here is to see, and converse with you.

and if you deprive me of your Company, I shall lay by all my hopes, and fear I am rejected for some happier Man. No, Sir, said she, truly, I do not like the Sex so well, to engage two at once; I think one too many, unless they were better than they generally are.

Oh, Madam, said he, have a care of railing at the Men, for it is very natural for both Sexes to Love and Like each other, and when I hear a Woman rail, I presently conclude, she has one of these two Reasons for it, either some Man has robb'd her of what she should not have parted with, and then left her in the Suds; or else they have been all so negligent, as never to take the least notice of her; now, in either of those two Cases, I'll allow a Woman to be angry: But, Madam, I have a higher Opinion of your Merit and Discretion, than to suppose that either of those Reasons are yours; and therefore should be glad to have it in my power to persuade you from, what other People may not judge so favourably of. Sir, said she, I have no great regard to the Judgment of any body, nor do I ever consult any thing but my own Will, which I think sufficient to justify me in any thing I do. Madam, said he, by my consent you shall have your own Will in every thing, and I hope it will be propitious to my Wishes. At this the modest Creature blush'd again, and by her silence told him, Yes.

Well, said my Friend, good People you may sit and scrape acquaintance here with one another, but, for my part, I will go and seek out. I have no longer patience to live upon other Folks Love, if all these fine things were said to my self, perhaps I might strain a point, and go with the thoughts of them supplest to Bed.

but
seen
and
toget
ing
Love
one
we
began
more
pose
both
nanc
fast
my
into
may
No,
ing
Love
were
thing
ample
Sir, sa
could
can
Discon
true,
very
Tong
still.
and w
that w
to lose
therefo
Supper
a little
dition'd

but as it is, I am for something that may be seen and felt, as well as heard and understood, and therefore, said she to me, lets leave them together. This she knew was as bad as drowning to the poor Toad that was to personate a Lover, and say a thousand loving Things to one he heartily wish'd in the lower Regions ; we staid a considerable time away, and at last began to believe, that a release would do him more good than his Supper, tho' we did suppose he might have a pretty good Stomach to both ; when we thought he had done Pen-nance enough, we returned and found him fast a sleep. Why, how now, Mr. Good, said my Friend, has your Lady's Charm snull'd you into a Dream, or do you Sleep now that you may lye awake all Night, and think of her. No, Madam, said he, (starting up and rubbing his Eyes) but I am so besotted with my Love, that I sleep waking, besides, when you were gone, the Lady thought there was nothing left worth her notice, and by her Example I sat silent, which made me Drousie. Sir, said she, half angry, ugly Cousin, if you could but give an Example as well as you can take one, perhaps we might have had Discourse enough to have kept you awake ; its true, indeed, I am but dull Company, and not very good at forcing Talk, yet, had your Tongue been employ'd, mine had not lain still. This gave us a world of Diversion, and we could have laugh'd till Bed-time, but that we wisely consider'd it was not prudence to lose a great deal of sport for a little, and therefore told them, we came to call them to Supper, which we hop'd would make one a little brisker, and the other better Condition'd.

The

The next Morning we were stirring betimes, and got into the Garden for a little Air, where we met with our Friend Mr. Good, who told us, he was sick at Heart of his Undertaking, and begged of us to shorten our Visit; my Friend told him, she began to be as weary as he, and did not design to stay above a Week longer, and I hope, said she, you will stay and compleat the work which you have begun, or else all that is past will be lost. Madam, said he, I could stay with the greatest content to end the Jest which you have begun, if I had but any hopes of Encouragement from you to answer my wishes when that is finish'd, and the thoughts of being rejected by you when I leave this place, gives me a greater uneasiness than I can describe, or you would believe, if I could. Sir, said she, if you begin to be serious, it is time for me to be so too. I have, I own, run my self into an odd sort of a Frolick, which I have done partly out of Revenge, and partly to divert my self; but I should be very sorry to have it back'd with a certainty of my own ruin. I need not tell you that I am an absolute stranger both to your Person and Design, nor do I know what you mean by giving you hopes, perhaps you have more already than you have good Grounds for; however, till you explain your self, I shall say no more. Madam, said he, I had so good a Confidence in your Apprehension, that I thought my words had wanted no explanation, but since you will not understand me, I will express my self in such intelligible Terms, as shall leave you without the least doubt: In short, I like your Humour above all things, and if I can but purchase your good Opinion of me, I shall then hope

that
of u
I
but
a Pig
gain
but
your
I tell
true
Miles
was
Man
worst
to a
now
Truth
me—
the s
Aunt
never
suppo
the M
Wedd
one in
no mo
them,
morr
ing th
can't S
attends
Ay,
neither
a little
says yo
of wha
you hav
sorry yo

that time may make a very happy Couple of us.

I know not, said she, what time may do, but at present it looks very much like buying a Pig in a Poke, to think of striking up a Bargain before we know each others Names; but if you will give me a true Account of your self, as I like your Circumstances so will I tell you my own. Why then, said he, my true Name is ———, and I live within five Miles of the place I met you at, my Fortune was once better than it is, and with good Management will be so again; but at the worst it will afford a very comfortable Being to a Family that will not run too fast; and now I have told you the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth, so help me—— Well, said she, I would give you the same Satisfaction, but here comes my Aunt and her Son *Dick*, who are early up and never the near this Morning, consulting, I suppose, how they shall find you out to be the Man you pass for, and contriving the Wedding Dinner, the Cloaths too are ten to one in dispute, and 'tis likely you are to wear no more long Perukes. Let us walk towards them, and begin upon the same Subject. Good morrow Aunt, said she, you are as early stirring this Morning as my Friend here, who can't Sleep for thinking of the Happiness that attends him.

Ay, said she, I can't Sleep for thinking of it neither, I was going to send my Son to make a little enquiry after the Gentleman, but he says you will take it ill if I doubt the Truth of what you have said. No, Aunt, said she, if you have a mind to send, you may, but I am sorry you dare not take my Word.

Yes,

Yes, said she, I will take your word, and depend wholly upon your Character, for I know you would not let me ruin my Child. No, indeed Aunt, said she, if I saw her in any danger, I should be one of the first that should cry out ; but, as it happens, there is none. In fine, the old Woman believ'd all her Niece said, and made Preparations accordingly, and Mr. Good had behav'd himself with so much seeming Sanctity, that he had wrought himself into the good Graces of the old Lady, and with so much seeming Love, that he found out the *Je-ne-scar-quoy* of the young one, and she began to muster up all her little good humour, to let him see what a loving Tit she could be upon occasion.

By this time he began to wish for his Deliverance, and therefore fix'd upon a Day for the Wedding, to which he found her consenting ripe, and the Monday following was to compleat the Jest. The next Morning we got together to contrive our escape, which, at last, we thus concluded on ; that the Morning appointed for the Wedding, we should pretend to go two Miles to bring a Relation of Mr. Good's to this merry meeting, and so return no more ; upon this we concluded, and while we were thus imploy'd, the old Lady was making the greatest Preparations for a day which was not to come so soon as she expected.

But, said I, to my Friend, what if this poor deluded Wretch should break her heart upon this Disappointment. Why then, said she, the World have a Fool the less in it. But have you no more Wit, than to imagine that such a Creature can be in Love, No ! Love is too noble a Passion for such a narrow-soul'd Wretch ; she knows him not, she has not Intellects to com-

co
an
Li
an
she
thi
wh
and
soft
con
Ref
the
our
the
broa
they
Rain
as sh
the
migh
his P
as ma
Fune
Day
ther'd
gravit
Face,
Week
this D
the Ga
that Po
and oft
she mu
Prayer
About
of our
Aunt, a
Friend v

comprehend him; and tho' he be dignify'd and distinguish'd by the despicable Names of Little, Blind God, yet is he strong. powerful and potent; and as a true Mastiff scorns to shew his Strength against a Cur, so does he think it beneath him to strike such Mortals, whose Understandings are blinder than he, and whose ill Nature admits of nothing so soft. While we were thus busied in talk, in comes the Bride, and put a stop to all farther Reflections; we spent that day as we had done the rest, and had no small satisfaction to think our time was so near expiration. Towards night the Mother, and her Son (who had been abroad to provide themselves of such things as they wanted) return'd, laden with Food and Raiment against the Day appointed. As soon as she alighted, she sent away a Servant to the Holder-forth at the next Barn, that he might the day following remember us all in his Prayers, which he, good Man, did, with as many Sighs and Tears as if it had been a Funeral instead of a Wedding. At last, the Day came, and the invited Neighbours gather'd, the Bride was set out with so much gravity, that her Dress was as nauseous as her Face, and the good Old Mother had, for a Week before, been praying for Pardon for this Day's work, in which she was to enter the Gates of Sin, and polute her holy Feet in that Popish, and un sanctified Place, the Church, and often groan'd in Spirit, to think how near she must approach a Surplice, and a Common-Prayer Book.

About two hours before the press'd time of our going to Church my Friend went to her Aunt, and told her Mr. Good had a particular Friend within two Miles, to whom he had of-

ten given his word that she should be at the Wedding; he has a mind to have us go and bring her, but, for my part, I know her no and unless he will go with us, I am resolv'd not to stir, I would have you persuade him to go, for it will be considerably out of the Way if she be not here. Upon this the Lady applies herself to her almost Son-in-law and desires him, by all means, to go for the Lady. Well, Madam, said the joyful Mr. Good, if you Command me to go, I will, but I fear it will be too late to come back again hither, therefore, if you please, we will meet you at the Church.

To this she agreed, and we all three took our Horse, with design never to see the Place where the People we left behind us again; we had our Cloaths with us but what was on our Back except a little Linnen which we could, and did, bestow in our Pockets. We sent a Servant to see how they came off at Church, who brought us word, that they staid till the Canonical hour was past, and then the Minister dismiss'd them without his Blessing. Mr. Friend, who knew her Aunts proud revengeful temper too well to suppose she would let so grand an Affront go unpunish'd, resolv'd to put her self out of her reach, in order to which she immediately prepares for her Journey into *Cheshire*, which was a hundred and fifty Miles from her: A farther Account of whom, and Mr. Good, the Reader may expect in the 2d. Part of this Book, which will be publish'd, as this meets with Encouragement.

FINIS.

290
ould be at
ve us go an
now her no
am resolv
suade him
out of h
this the o
t Son-in la
go for t
joyful M
I will, b
e back aga
ve will me

three to
the Place
we had
n our Back
could, an
e sent a Sp
nurch, w
aid till t
he Minist
essing. M
oud reven
e she wou
ish'd, reso
ch, in orde
pares for
a hundre
er Account
der may ex
which wil
Encourage